

THE

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



World

DECEMBER, 1963

January Ready-for-YOUTH Resources

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TENTH
ANNIVERSARY



TO HAWAII IN 1964

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Harold E. Westerhoff



Christian Endeavorers from the Pacific Area of the World's Christian Endeavor Union will be interested in the word coming out of World Headquarters that the Fourth Pacific Area Conference will be held in Hawaii August 6 through 9. Many will remember that the first such conference was held in Honolulu in 1952. It set the pattern and the pace for subsequent area conferences.

Christian Endeavorers from Canada, Mexico, and the United States will welcome the good news that the Pacific Area Conference will afford them another opportunity for one of Christian Endeavor's fabulous International Fellowship Tours. Hawaiian Christian Endeavorers are all keyed up about our coming and Hawaiian hospitality is like no place else in the world. Rev. John L. A. Kalili is president and executive director of the Hawaiian Christian Endeavor Association. Harry K. Stewart, Jr., of the Kaunakapili

Church, Honolulu, is chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee.

The International Fellowship Tour of the Paradise of the Pacific promises to be one of the best in a long line of successful International Fellowship Tours—and it represents the most for the tour dollar too.

The tour party will leave Los Angeles International Airport by Pan American Jet on Saturday morning, August 1, arriving back in Los Angeles early in the morning on Friday, August 21. The days between will be jammed full of wonderful sights and sounds of this fiftieth state. And all along the way we are assured of happy fellowship with Island Christian Endeavorers.

Not to be confused with the standard packages being offered to Hawaii, this is a five-island, nineteen-night experience of a lifetime. First stop will be the Capital Isle, the Island of Oahu, with

Honolulu and all that goes with it. Then comes Molokai, not often seen by the average tourist; the most beautiful of them all, just recently opened up to group travel. Then there is the Garden Isle; Kauai; Maui, the Valley Isle; and the big Island of Hawaii, the Orchid Isle. There will be nine nights on Oahu and ten nights on the Outer Islands. This is more than just travel and vacation.

The all-inclusive cost—\$850 at present published rates—from Los Angeles International Airport back to Los Angeles International Airport. The tour party will be limited to the first fifty persons who enroll; that is the absolute maximum, imposed by limitations of airline space and space allocations from the best hotels in the Islands.

A deposit of \$200 will reserve a place on this tour which promises to surpass any previous Christian Endeavor Fellowship Tour. Make it to Hawaii in 1964.

Coming Events

December

5-8—Executives' Program Council, Columbus, Ohio

Contact: International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216

February

8—Pacific Regional Conference, Portland, Oregon

Contact: Mrs. Etta V. Berger, 5550 N.W. 185th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97229

Pray for these Christian Endeavor events!

**Are you ready for Christian Endeavor Week
January 26 - February 2, 1964?**

COVER CLUES

Marking the tenth anniversary of the Daniel A. Poling Building, the Christian Tirres baked this cake for a dinner October 18 in Columbus at Christian Endeavor Headquarters. Among Executive Committee guests were Mr. and Mrs. Arch J. McQuilkin and Dr. Daniel K. Poling (right).



THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World



DECEMBER

1963

Volume 79

Number 5

Official Publication of the
International Society of Christian Endeavor

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Publisher: HAROLD E. WESTERHOFF

Member of Associated Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.

Published monthly by The Christian Endeavor World, Inc., at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Second-class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio.

Subscription Prices: United States and Canada—\$3 a year; five copies one address \$12 a year; ten copies to one address \$19.50 a year. Other countries—\$3.75 a year. Single Copy, 40c.

Change of address should be sent by first of month to affect following month's issue. Give old address as well as new one.

Printed in U.S.A.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD



Bishop Meadows with overseas Endeavorers

Christian Endeavor ON THE MARCH

By Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, D.D.

President, World's Christian Endeavor Union

It was inspiring and encouraging for the World President in the last several weeks to see the great Christian Endeavor rallies and the enthusiasm of youth and their leaders for Christ and the Church under the banner of Christian Endeavor in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England, Holland, West Germany, East Germany, Portugal, and Sierra Leone, West Africa.

In Risca, Wales, for instance, after a very impressive tea with leaders of the churches, about 1,100 gathered in the Bethany Baptist Church for a Christian Endeavor rally. The audience filled the main sanctuary as well as the balcony on three sides of the church. The congregational singing, led by a 60-voice choir, truly expressed the glorious music for which the Welsh are famous and lifted one "out of this world." The tour and rallies in Wales had been arranged and were directed by Rev. Bertram Allsopp, pastor of Pembrookshire Baptist Church and former president of the British Union.

Similar tours and rallies were arranged in Scotland by James Murdoch of Glasgow, another former president of the British Union; in Ireland by Rev. F. Rupert Gibson of Belfast, where the 1966 World's Convention is to be held; in England—the Midlands and the London areas—by William J. Sharpe of Coventry. Mr. Sharpe is general secretary of Area II of the World's Christian Endeavor Union. Along with Harold E. Westerhoff, general secretary of the World's Union, he had charge of general arrangements for the President's tour of Europe and Africa as well as the Area II Conference in Porto, Portugal, August 29-September 2. In Holland the tour and national rally was in charge of Frans

J. Hoogenraad, president of the Netherlands Union.

In West Germany the President was received most graciously and assured of the loyal support of the great German Christian Endeavor movement. Rallies of 800 to 1,000 were held in Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Nurnberg. At Nurnberg the President had the opportunity of sharing in the fall convention of the Bavarian Union under the leadership of Willy Scheyhing, president. They have a spring convention of about 3,000 and a fall convention which brings together from 1,000 to 1,200 enthusiastic youth. This one was no exception.

The President was given the privilege of visiting East Berlin and there met with many Endeavorers among Christian leaders and youth. Their most urgent question was, "Do the Christian Endeavorers of the western world still remember us in prayer?" We certainly should hold up our brethren in Christ who are on the other side of the Iron Curtain and behind "The Wall."

To show the vitality and true Christian spirit among the West German Endeavorers, under the splendid leadership of Rev. Arno Pagel, the rally at Hamburg spontaneously gave a retiring offering of 1,000 marks for the missionary work of Christian Endeavor. They directed that it be given to Sierra Leone, West Africa, to help organize a national Christian Endeavor union in that new country.

In the tour of Sierra Leone it was found that the government of this new country is very friendly to the church and Christian Endeavor. The President had two meetings with the Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai, who is a very fine Christian man and an active member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Paramount Chiefs, district officers, and people went all out to make the President's tour a most informing and inspiring experience. Speaking engagements were arranged in schools and great rallies were held in all the major areas of the country from Freetown to Bonthe, Mattru, Bumpe, and Bo. There are 17 Christian Endeavor societies in this little country and many of the ministers and missionaries, as well as lay leaders in business and government, have a Christian Endeavor background.

In all during this tour the President traveled 21,600 miles and delivered 78 sermons and addresses. Commitments to Christ were recorded in each area as intelligent young people came forward to give their hearts to Christ and dedicate their lives to His service.

The next presidential tour will be January 2 through February 28, 1964, and will include Hawaii, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Burma, India, and Africa. Remember these efforts for Christ and the Church around the world in your prayers.



THE WORLD'S UNION PRESIDENT reports on his tour to members of the International Society Executive Committee and Headquarters associates at a dinner October 18 at Christian Endeavor Headquarters in Columbus.

earn awards for citizenship

Now is the time for both individuals and Christian Endeavor societies to concentrate on Christian citizenship.

Individuals will use articles, editorials, talks, posters, black and white photographs, or cartoons as a dynamic Christian witness to the community.

Societies will sponsor citizenship projects which make an impact for Christian citizenship on their community.

The Albert H. Diebold Awards are being offered to both individuals and societies in the 1964 Citizenship Awards Program, sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor. The first place award for individuals is \$150 in cash, with \$200 going to the winning society. These two top winners will also

receive a grant (up to \$100) for expenses of attending the International Summer Assembly at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, July 6-11, 1964. There are a total of nine cash awards for individuals and nine for societies. In addition, award emblems will be given to individual winners and plaques to the winning societies.

February 3 is the deadline for entries in this Awards Program. All must have been developed or begun after May 31 of this year and must implement the folder *What Is Christian Citizenship?*

Complete details may be obtained by writing to Rev. Christian A. Tirre, Citizenship Director, International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Fiftieth Christian Endeavor Week Observance

Christian Endeavor Week was first observed January 26 through February 2, 1914. These same dates will mark the fiftieth observance in 1964.

The observance of Christian Endeavor Week resulted from action at the 1913 Los Angeles Convention, when the Week was set to include the Sunday before and the Sunday after February 2. In recent years the Week has been observed the last Sunday of January through the first Sunday of February.

For that first observance in 1914, February 2 was designated as "Go to Church" Sunday. Theme for the 1964 observance is "These My Brethren."

Christian Endeavor Day was first observed as "United Society Day" (the United Society was the forerunner of the International Society) on February

22, 1888. That year offerings were taken for Christian Endeavor extension which yielded more than \$8,000. Later the date was changed to February 2, the actual birthday of the movement.

Many societies and unions will receive 83rd birthday offerings for the work of the International Society on the last Sunday of Christian Endeavor Week, February 2. These funds help greatly in extension and outreach.

A packet of materials for the observance of the Week is available from the International Society. This includes a manual, radio and television scripts, party plans, and numerous other items. Order the 1964 Christian Endeavor Week Packet (50c) right away and plan for a worthy anniversary observance.

MAKING A WILL?

Remember Christian Endeavor . . .

Yes, remember Christian Endeavor International in your will, that its ministry may be undergirded in the days ahead.

A sample bequest:

I give and bequeath to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, Columbus, Ohio, the sum of _____ Dollars.

For information write to

Harold E. Westerhoff, General Secretary
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR
1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio

HONOR SOCIETIES

Since the last list was published of societies and unions who have officially become members of the International Society of Christian Endeavor by financial support during the Membership Mobilization, a number of others have participated in the 1963 Society Roll Call.

Organizations listed below contributed during the period from April 1 through October 31. Those receiving gold seal have contributed \$50 or more; red seal represent a gift of \$30; and blue seal a contribution of \$15.

Gold Seal

Board of Education, General Eldership of the Churches of God, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Red Seal

Washington Conference, Allen League, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.
Adult, Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago, Illinois
Peoria Union, Peoria, Illinois

Blue Seal

Hawaii State Association, Honolulu, Hawaii
Junior, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Morris, Illinois
Primary, Southside Christian Church, Hammond, Indiana
College, College Park United Brethren Church, Huntington, Indiana
Metropolitan Community Church, Louisville, Kentucky
Williston Church, Portland, Maine
Warrendale United Brethren Church, Detroit, Michigan
Senior, First Presbyterian Church, Passaic, New Jersey
Senior High, Community Church of Little Neck, Little Neck, New York
Alumni Fellowship of New York City, New York, New York
Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church, Dayton, Ohio
Adult, Kunkle United Brethren Church, Kunkle, Ohio
Keystone League, Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Mt. Pleasant Church of God, Dillsburg, Pennsylvania
Senior High, Leacock Presbyterian Church, Kinzers, Pennsylvania
Mt. Washington United Brethren Church, Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania
Disston Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Intermediate, Primitive Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Junior High, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church, Reading, Pennsylvania
Emslie Memorial Church, Grand Cayman, British West Indies

Theme Chorus Available

The chorus, "Through Christ I Can," written by Edward C. Steinhart and introduced at the Washington Convention, is now available on special 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" chorus sheets. Cost is 5c each, 25c a dozen, \$1.50 per hundred. Order from the Publishing Department of the International Society.

NEWS AND VIEWS



Florence Zimmerman

At Garrison Road United Brethren Church she is Christian Endeavor Director and teaches the Ladies Adult Bible Class part-time. Miss Zimmerman is a graduate of Hamilton Teachers' College.

WASHINGTON WRAP-UP is a complete visual report of the 47th International Convention in Washington, D.C., last summer. This is a set of approximately 70 Kodachrome slides with an accompanying script. The presentation was prepared by Warren G. Hoopes, Sr., of Pennsylvania, and is available on a loan basis from the International Society. The only charge is for postage in returning the slides. Wonderful promotion for Dallas 1965! Schedule WASHINGTON WRAP-UP by writing to Phyllis I. Rike at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

BISHOP CLYDE W. MEADOWS was honored October 11 as one of six outstanding citizens in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The selection was sponsored by Wilson College. Bishop Meadows, World's Union president, served for 33 years as pastor of King Street United Brethren Church in Chambersburg.

ARCH J. MCQUILKIN, International Society president, was honored on September 17 by associates and friends at Fairmount Mutual Life, where he is assistant comptroller. Several hundred attended a dinner marking his fiftieth anniversary with the company. Mr. McQuilkin received gifts which included a handsome watch.

SOUTHERN REGION Endeavorers meeting October 4-6 at The Assembly Inn, Montreat, North Carolina, enjoyed singing during conference sessions. Part of the group (below, left) is shown during an evening hymn sing in the newly-redecorated lobby of The Inn and (below, right) all the delegates singing during the Christian Endeavor meeting. A total of 85 were present, reports regional vice-president Elsie Mae Sink.



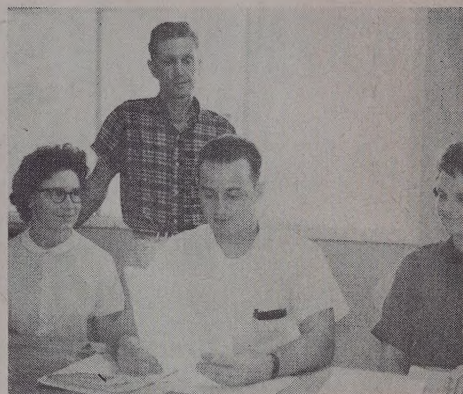
• AN EXCHANGE MEETING with a society in Ireland is proving to be a rich experience for the Young People's Society of Cooke's Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario. John McCullough reports that a tape recording of a regular meeting has been sent to the youth of Ravenhill Road Presbyterian Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and a return tape from the Irish Endeavorers is expected. John says, "We hope through the use of the tape recording to gain greater understanding into the meaning of International Christian Endeavor." Societies interested in an exchange meeting with an overseas group can secure information from International Society Headquarters.



Mrs. Raymond P. Rusnak

HEADING the Virginia Union this year is Esther B. Rusnak. Mrs. Rusnak lives with her husband Raymond at Disputanta, where she is active in the Bethlehem Congregational Church. She has served as director for both the Junior and Senior Choirs and at present is a kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Rusnak is employed by the United States Army as a secretary at the Logistics Management Center at Fort Lee.

• THE SOUVENIR RECORD of the Washington Convention, "Washington Witness," is now in the hands of those who placed orders. This 33-1/3 rpm 12" long play record includes excerpts from the messages of the five evening speakers, the Quiet Hour leader, and the new president, plus choir music and singing by delegates. A few records are still available at \$3.50 each. Order at once from International Society; the quantity is very limited.



NORTH CAROLINA officers scheduling the year's activities at the planning conference in August are (left to right) Mrs. Jean White, vice-president; Arnold Jester, Crestmont trustee; B. J. Adams, newly-elected president; and Mrs. Jerry Hayes, young people's superintendent.



HOMER AND JETHRO, the popular Michigan duo of Ralph Robrahn and Lee Mekkes, perform during the banquet of the Great Lakes Regional Conference at First Christian Church, Crown Point, Indiana. Arch McQuilkin seems to be enjoying the act immensely. Almost 100 participated in conference sessions October 12 and 13, directed by William R. Bonnema. New vice-president for the region is Joan Pyle.



Ready - for - YOUTH RESOURCES

PLANNING DEVOTIONAL SERVICES



by
Mrs. Arthur Raymond

A Christian Endeavor leader finds many opportunities to prepare and plan devotional services. Usually we think of this as a particular type of meeting for the Sunday evening Christian Endeavor hour. This is often the case but just as important are the devotional periods at camp; the brief time at the close of a party or during a trip.

A few rules kept in mind will make this period of time, wherever it may occur, more effective in reaching the young people of any group.

1. Start your planning with prayer. We can achieve nothing without the help of our Lord and Saviour. Spend some time alone with Him and ask to be shown His will as you begin your preparation.

2. Consider your group. Is this period to fill time? Are you planning devotions just because it is the customary thing? or can you be of help in some particular area?

As the programs of a group meet the needs of that group, then you will find the attendance of your members becoming more regular and then the society will begin to grow. Where is help needed? Think about your own life as well as the lives of those in your society, and the group as a whole. Is help needed to strengthen the prayer life of each in the group? Bible reading? Worship? What about the day to day problems faced in living for Him? Again—consider your society and its needs and plan your devotional times to meet those needs.

3. What about the atmosphere in the place these devotional services or times will be held? The meeting place itself can be of great help in bringing about a worshipful atmosphere in any meeting.

THE SUNDAY EVENING MEETING

In order to make this different from the usual Sunday evening meeting, change the room arrangement. Place the chairs in a circle—or a double circle; turn them to face in a different direction.

Arrange a worship center at the front of the room. Pictures of Christ, a cross, a Bible, candles, or flowers can all be effective in obtaining the desired atmosphere. Other pictures such as those showing God's handiwork can also be the center of such an arrangement. Use candlelight or other subdued lighting.

Occasionally change the place of meeting; perhaps a vesper service out-of-doors, or around a campfire. Even moving to another room for one evening will be helpful. (A word of caution however. Anytime you move from your regular meeting place, be sure you notify your members ahead of time and post a note on the door of your regular room for late-comers. There is not much use to move to obtain an atmosphere of worship if your members arrive after the meeting starts because they didn't know of the move, and thus disturb the meeting.)

AT A PARTY

Just before the refreshments are served, sing a few songs, working gradually to the more worshipful ones. Follow the song time with a brief devotional prepared by one of your own members or with a time of testimony.

ON A TRIP

If your social time is a trip away from the church or some event such as a skating or bowling party, it is often better to hold the time of devotions during the middle of the evening rather than at the close when some may already have left or are getting ready to go home.

If you are in a public place, have the young people gather apart from the others in attendance if possible. These arrange-

ments should be made when making plans for the event. Have everyone seated (to help eliminate unnecessary noise). Here to work up to a brief devotional message with a song time.

4. In planning devotions follow the theme of the evening. The devotional meeting is not a service apart but should be a part of the life of the society and tied into the regular meetings.

At parties and special events, the theme may come from the kind of party. Use your Bible, a concordance, and devotional books to find ideas to fit your need.

Much can be found on nature, the power, the majesty, peace of God, which will fit outdoor meetings. For beach parties build around "sand." Perhaps "sands of time", how they affect our lives; or bring in the parable of the house built upon the rock and the house upon the sand. Luke 6:47-49; Matthew 7:24-27.

5. Bring variety into your devotional times by changing the manner of presentations of the various parts of the service.

SCRIPTURE

If Scripture is to be used in either the devotional meeting or devotional time, change the manner of reading. For example have the group read responsively with the leader; divide the group and read alternate verses; have two people read responsively; use verses quoted from memory.

PRAYER

The manner of prayer should also show variety. You might use sentence prayers where each one who prays speaks one sentence, about one thing (no "ands" to join two separate thoughts). Several may pray for specified needs at the request of the leader (don't forget to praise and give thanks). Try personal prayer using "I" and "my" instead of "we" and "our". (Before the meeting, ask the person who will pray first and explain to him just what you want so that this chain of prayer will be started correctly.) Guided, silent prayer may be used with the leader asking all to pray silently for a specific request; he then waits fifteen or twenty seconds and mentions the next thing for which to pray. This is continued for several items.

TESTIMONY TIME

How often have you heard, "Who has a testimony?" and no one has responded. Testimonies from Christians are both helpful to those who give them and to those who listen, but young people need a little help in getting started.

Ask for testimonies on one particular subject. For example Ask the members to tell when they accepted the Lord and why they are glad they did (this is especially good for young people who haven't had much experience in speaking out for the Lord). Tell of answers to prayer or of the blessing of the Quiet Hour. How the Lord has helped at school (or business); Spiritual blessings such as strength, peace of mind, comfort, etc.; Tithing how it has helped me.

Candlelight services are also helpful for the time of testimony. You might start with only the light from one large candle at the front of the room. The leader speaks first of "The Light of the World" and letting our light shine. And then say, "Shall the room remain dark with only one candle lighting the way shall we bring the light gradually as we light our candles from the large one and speak a word about our Lord."

Yes, a time of quiet wherever and whenever it may occur may be a lift to some Christian who is in need. But this help doesn't just happen. *Pray* first and then *Plan* with a *Purpose* as you may provide the help that will strengthen and encourage those who will hear.

Topics

FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

Word of Honor

Hebrews 8:6-13

Our Aims

1. To emphasize the sacredness of promises made before the Lord.
2. To teach Junior Highs that when they sign the Christian Endeavor Pledge they make promises of faithfulness and loyalty to Christ and His Church.
3. To encourage Junior Highs to accept the current biennial Christian Endeavor theme "Through Christ I Can" as their own; showing them that through Christ will they find the needed strength to fulfill the promises they make in the pledge.

Suggested Program

Prayer Service
Opening Hymns: *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*; *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*
Announcements and Offering
Scripture Reading: Hebrews 8:6-13.
Introduction of the topic: by the leader
Prayer: (for commitment to Christ and the strength to carry out the promises made in the Christian Endeavor Pledge.)
Discussion of the topic: (by the leader, and member participation)
Hymn: *Living for Jesus*
Consecration Service
Closing Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
Benediction

Publicity

A special invitation could be given to all those of Junior High age to begin the new year by coming to the Christian Endeavor meeting and learn what Christian Endeavor really is by being introduced to the Pledge. Each member could be made responsible for inviting several eligible young people. Use this opportunity to make your society grow.

Introduction to the Topic

This week's topic deals with the reason for the Christian Endeavor Pledge. What is a pledge? It is a promise or agreement by which one binds himself to do or forbear something.

(Call attention to the Christian Endeavor Pledge which you have on the wall of your meeting room.) Why is it called a pledge? It is a promise on your part, if you sign it, to God to be faithful and loyal to the agreements made in the pledge. A pledge therefore, is a promise. A promise has two parties involved, the one who makes the promises and the one to whom the promises are made. When we make a promise, it is binding. When one breaks a promise he reveals the fact that his "word of honor" is meaningless, or that he does not understand the involvement of a pledge.

When people testify in court, they are bound to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." We are also bound to do our best earnestly to carry out each promise made to Christ in the signing of the pledge.

We are not unfamiliar with pledges or promises as such. For instance, when you made, or when you will make confession of your faith in Christ, you have promised or you will promise total commitment to Christ.

Later on, you will probably become familiar with the marriage vow. These instances of promises are sacred, being made to the Lord. They have a lasting effect upon the lives of those who make them. So it is with the Christian Endeavor Pledge. It is a solemn but beautiful agreement between you and your Lord!

Bible Passage Explained

Our Scripture lesson for today's topic is Hebrews 8:6-13; it speaks of two covenants, the old and the new. A covenant, as you know, is an agreement between two people or groups. In this covenant relationship we have God, who formed the covenant, and man with whom God made the covenant. The new covenant, the Scripture says, is a better covenant because it is established upon better promises. The writer, in these verses tells of the superior priesthood of Christ. The old covenant which was



My Word of Honor

My Word of Honor, gracious Lord,
I gladly give to Thee;
I promise I will strive to do
Whatever Thy will for me.

I'll set aside a time to pray,
And read Thy Word each day;
I promise to support my church
In every kind of way.

Christian Endeavor meetings, too,
I promise to be there,
And try to take an active part
In song, or word, or prayer.

My Word of Honor, Lord, I give,
To serve Thee to the end:
I'll trust Thee for the strength I need,
My Saviour, and my Friend.

By Kate Vanderberg

made with the fathers of the Jewish nation at Mount Sinai was imperfect or inadequate compared with the Gospel. (See Matthew Henry's Commentary, New Testament section page 716.) If the old covenant had been adequate no new covenant would have had to be made. With Christ as Mediator between the sinner and God, the covenant is sealed by baptism and the Lord's Supper. In verse 11 God says "I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." The writer explains this new covenant relationship by speaking of the forgiveness of sin also. This has been made possible through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. If we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we are included in this new covenant. Along with this wonderful gift of eternal life comes the responsibility of living for Jesus. This is where our Christian Endeavor Pledge fits into the new covenant; out of sheer gratitude for salvation we pledge, or promise that we will do whatever He would like to have us do, and specifically listing the other items which the pledge contains.

(Continued on next page)

Development of the Topic

One's "word of honor" is a very important factor in making a pledge or a promise. With it, the pledge has real meaning; without it, it loses much of its meaning. This topic can be developed in three ways.

1. Reason for the pledge. In order to be sure we know what we are pledging it is necessary to have certain concrete statements of that which we have pledged. When one signs a legal document, one reads carefully the printed matter contained in the explanation of the document. When one signs his name to an agreement, he gives his word of honor that he will keep the agreement; that is a fact that is understood by both parties. So it is that we have a written pledge for Christian Endeavor; we have concrete statements which we agree to keep when we sign it. We must understand what we are promising before we sign the pledge.

2. Nature of the pledge. The Christian Endeavor Pledge is a sacred transaction between God and you. It cannot be taken lightly or it will lose its meaning. Any promise we make to God is a solemn transaction and should never be taken lightly. Once you have made the wonderful decision to sign the Christian Endeavor Pledge, you have identified yourself with God, the Creator, the Ruler, and the Sustainer of all things! He is also your heavenly Father because He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ! What a privilege to have part in such a transaction as the Christian Endeavor Pledge!

3. The results of signing the pledge. When you have signed the pledge the results or effects are lasting and far reaching. The blessing of serving God through the keeping of the pledge is evident in the spiritual well-being which you possess in the knowledge that you are living for Jesus. Nothing can compare with the joy you can have in serving your Lord and Master.

Perhaps you still feel that keeping the pledge is a big order. The makers of the Christian Endeavor Pledge realized that when the pledge was made, and so the pledge starts as it does: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength." You will find it impossible to keep the pledge in your own strength, but relying upon and praying to Him to whom you have made the pledge, will enable you to keep the pledge victoriously. The result of such an endeavor will stretch clear into eternity.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why must a pledge be binding?
2. Is a promise made to God more serious than one made to man?
3. Is it ever right to break a pledge?
4. Is commitment to Christ a pledge?
5. Must a Christian Endeavorer sign the pledge?

Pledges Made in the Bible

1. After the Flood, Noah built an altar and sacrificed to the Lord. God promised that He would never again flood the earth for man's sake. God goes one step further and promises that the four seasons will continue as long as the earth remains. (Genesis 8:20-22)

2. God told Abraham to leave his home in Haran and travel to Canaan. God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation. Abraham obeyed God. (Genesis 12:1-3)

3. Jacob was afraid when he awakened that morning in Bethel where he had slept out under the stars with a stone for a pillow. God had spoken to Jacob during the night and promised He would be with Jacob and bless him. Jacob was fearful in the presence of God; he was fleeing from home because he had cheated his brother. Nevertheless, God promised to bless Jacob and Jacob made a vow before he left Bethel. He vowed that if God would be with him, supply him with the necessities of life, and permit him to return to the home from which he was fleeing, then he would take the Lord for his God. He also promised to give the Lord a tenth of all he earned. (Genesis 28:13-22)

4. The children of Israel promised Joshua before he died that they would serve the Lord only. Joshua set up a rock, or stone, as a witness to their good profession. The rock was to be a reminder to them of their pledge to serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:21-27)

5. David and Jonathan made a pledge together when David was going to flee from King Saul, Jonathan's father. David pledged that he would show kindness to Jonathan's family forever. When David eventually became king he remembered his pledge to Jonathan, and carried it out. (I Samuel 20:14-17; II Samuel 9:1)

For the Counselor

Every counselor should have a copy of the *Guide for Action 1963-64* to make plans for the year ahead, if you have not already

done so. Read it carefully and prayerfully to discover what your society can do for Christ and the Church. Underline ideas or activities you would like your society to adopt. Keep the "Guide" handy where you can refer to it often; check and evaluate your program. Order the Junior High Edition of the "Guide."

If this is Consecration meeting in your society, it will be a good time to emphasize the need for perseverance to the Junior Highs who have already taken the Christian Endeavor Pledge. Perhaps they can answer the roll call with statements from the pledge which are particularly meaningful to them or which they think they would like to reaffirm.

Encourage others to sign the pledge by explaining the sacredness and the blessing such a venture with Christ. Tell them they prayerfully give Christ their word of honor. He will help them carry out their promises.

Have a supply of Christian Endeavor Pledge cards on hand. Also, it would be wise to order enough folders for your Junior Highs on *What Is the Christian Endeavor Pledge?* (All these supplies may be obtained from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.)

For additional publicity you could perhaps make some miniature Christian Endeavor pledges to distribute to prospective members some time prior to the time of meeting.

Have your Junior Highs learn the hymn entitled *Christian Endeavor* found in *Christian Endeavor Songs*, page two. It incorporates the words of the pledge.

Be ready to extend a warm welcome to any Junior High who answers the invitation to sign the pledge. Make him feel that he is wanted and needed in the work of God's kingdom, for Christ and the Church. Encourage the members to extend the right hand of fellowship to the new members.

Illustration from Life

A certain lady received an invitation to spend an evening with a friend. She promised she would and then deliberately broke her promise. When her friend asked why she had not come as she had promised, she shrugged her shoulders and said, "I went out with someone else that night." The lady's "word of honor" has become meaningless. It is dishonorable to break a promise or pledge. It is honorable, rather, to God to help you keep your pledge.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 30	The Old Agreement	Genesis 12:1-3
T. Dec. 31	The Old and New Related	Hebrews 6:1-8
W. Jan. 1	Faithfulness a Necessity	Psalms 89:2-5
T. Jan. 2	Something Better Promised	Isaiah 42:1-4
F. Jan. 3	God's Promise Fulfilled	Galatians 4:21-31
S. Jan. 4	Symbols of the New Agreement	Matthew 26:26-28
Sun. Jan. 5—Topic: Word of Honor		Hebrews 8:1-13

Comments by Kate Vanderberg, a teacher at a Christian school in South Holland, Illinois

Topic 2 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

A Personal Promise

Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service: (Some groups occasionally like to gather informally around the piano for a short "sing" before the meeting starts. Tonight sing choruses centering on Christ, such as: *Everybody Ought to Know; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus; I Need Jesus*)

Prayer Hymn: *Near to the Heart of God; or I Need Thee Every Hour*

Sentence Prayers

Leader's Introduction

Scripture Reading and Comments: Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

Presentation of Topic

Solo or Hymn: *Are Ye Able?*

Talk: *What Is the Christian Endeavor Pledge?*

Signing of Pledge: *I Promise Him*

Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Announcements and Offering

Consecration Prayer

Benediction

Postlude: *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*

Planning the Meeting

If you do not have a copy of the wall pledge (now would be an excellent time to get one) secure individual copies for each member. Wallet size Christian Endeavor Pledge cards for active members in forms #2, #3, and #4, and also associate member cards may be secured from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216 for 35 cents per dozen or \$2.50 per hundred (every society should keep a supply on hand). Be sure to have cards for the pledge-signing service.

If there is an older Endeavorer in your church whom all of the Junior Highs love, ask him or her to give a *short* personal testimony as to how the words *I Promise Him* have influenced his or her life.

For the Counselor

You probably should take the initiative in sending for materials as suggested in *Planning the Meeting*, and to contact an older Endeavorer to give a personal testimony. Be prepared to lead in the discussion of the folder, *What Is the Christian Endeavor Pledge?* and to lead in the pledge-signing service. Emphasize the fact that each one must make his own individual commitment to Christ.

For Publicity

Make this a *Person-to-Person* meeting. Since we are nearing Christian Endeavor's 83rd birthday, it is well for everyone to recall that the basic principle which has made Christian Endeavor so effective in the lives of countless thousands has been the pledging of their personal allegiance to Jesus Christ. It has been and still is a personal relationship.

The lookout committee should contact every member and every prospect member, to make sure that they are invited to attend all three of these meetings on the pledge. Let them make it their responsibility to see that there is a *person-to-person* call made on everyone who might not be present.

Make signs with *Person-to-Person* in manuscript and in cursive writing to place about the building where the Junior Highs will see them, to create curiosity and interest in the meeting.

For the Leader

The aim of this meeting is to rethink the meaning of three key words in our Christian Endeavor Pledge, *I Promise Him*. Prayerfully plan each part of the meeting. Make all assignments early, and check the week before to make sure that preparation is being made.

Pray that the meeting may exalt Jesus, and that members of the society may come to have a deeper understanding of the privilege it is to belong to Him. Pray that the pledge-signing service may be a time of genuine consecration for your society.

Explain the importance of the meeting to all of the members you ask to participate, and urge them to be present for the pre-prayer service.

Scripture Lesson Notes

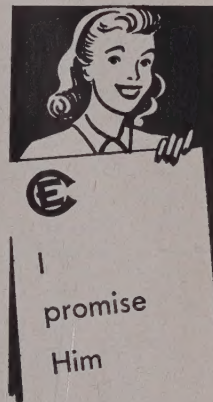
Peter had been very close to Jesus during His earthly ministry. No one doubted that he really loved the Lord and meant it with all his heart when he said that even if all the others should desert Jesus, he never would. Peter was trusting in his own strength when he fell so far below the promise he had made.

Our Christian Endeavor Pledge begins with the wonderful words, *Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength*. His help is available for the asking. Without Him we can do nothing, but we can do all things through Christ who strength-

Our Aims

1. To emphasize three key words of our Christian Endeavor Pledge, *I promise Him*.

2. To help Junior Highs to see that when we enter into a covenant relationship with Christ, His resources are not only available for us, but are unlimited.



ens us. We grow in our Christian lives as we attempt to do things we know we cannot do in our own strength; having to find out for ourselves that He never fails.

Christ forgave Peter, and He forgives us when we fail. Peter's later life showed that he learned his lesson.

Leader's Introduction

Our topic tonight is the second in a series of three meetings on our Christian Endeavor Pledge. Last Sunday night we learned what a pledge is, and that it is necessary all through our lives to make vows and statements of purpose. (Mention some of the specific things that were discussed last week.)

Tonight we are to center our attention upon the One to whom our promises are made—the living Christ. It is a *Person-to-Person* agreement or covenant. Because He is a *living* Saviour, He is able to help us with every one of our problems. We don't dare to try to live without Him.

I hope that all of us can take part in the signing or re-signing of the pledge tonight. Think what it will mean to have thousands of Junior Highs all across North America consecrating themselves anew to Christ tonight!

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Thought-Starters for Talks on the Topic

I Corinthians 3:11. Jesus is the only secure foundation upon which to build our lives. Read Matthew 4:24-29 (give in your own words).

Acts 4:12. Jesus is the only Saviour. Read John 14:1-6 (give in your own words).

Matthew 28:18. All authority (from the Author) in heaven and in earth is His. Read Romans 8:31-32 (give in your own words).

II Corinthians 12:9. His grace is sufficient for any and all situations which may come up in our lives. Read John 15:5 and Philippians 4:13, 4:19 (give in your own words).

I Corinthians 10:13. Why does a teen-ager need such a promise?

Luke 22:69-71. Who is this Jesus to whom we make our pledge? Read Colossians 3:1, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25 (give in your own words).

Philippians 2:9-11. God has set His seal of approval upon Jesus, and highly exalted Him. Can we do less? Read John 3:25-36 (give the thoughts in your own words).

II Timothy 1:12. He is able. Read John 14:19b and John 11:25,26 (give in your own words).

John 15:13,14. Jesus' friendship has promises. Why is this a precious truth to you?

John 15:13,14. Jesus' friendship has passed the supreme test. He held back nothing. He deserves our all. Read Luke 5:1-11 (tell in your own words).

Isaiah 9:6. He is the Prince of Peace. Read John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7. We can always have real peace in our hearts, even in these days of unrest, if Jesus lives in our hearts.

Romans 14:1-9. Christ died and lives again to be the Lord over all. Webster says that Lord means one who has power and authority; master, ruler. Lordship belongs to Jesus. His authority is above all-supreme. Aren't we short-sighted in wanting to "rule our own lives" when our Lord will direct our lives if we will let Him? Read Proverbs 3:5,6.

Daniel 1:1-16. Daniel purposed in his heart that he was going to be loyal to his God, even as a captive in Babylon. He could have forgotten his God as many others did, but even at the risk of displeasing the king and of losing his life, he remained faithful to God. Read Daniel 1:9 and 1:17. Did God stand by Daniel for being faithful? Does He stand by us in the same way today?

Questions for Discussion

1. Why does membership, based upon personal allegiance to Christ, make Christian Endeavor different from other youth organizations?

2. How does it help you to know that other young people have signed the same pledge?

3. What difference has signing the Christian Endeavor Pledge made in your life? Would you recommend it to others?

Person-to-Person

A Christian Endeavor sponsor who was a school teacher, was giving her testimony concerning the influence of the Christian Endeavor Pledge in her life. She was nearly forty years of age before a widower asked her to share his life and become his wife. The gentleman had two teen-age children whom the teacher had taught in the first grade. The father attended church but was not an active Christian. The teacher said, "I remembered my Christian Endeavor Pledge. I had made a promise to my Lord, and much as I desired a home of my own, I couldn't consider having a home where Christ was not first in all things."

Because of her firm stand the widower had become a devoted follower of Christ, and together they have served as sponsors of several Junior High Christian Endeavor societies. God has blessed her richly because she was true to her pledge to Christ. A different choice would have made such a different story!

John and Betty were sponsors of a large, active Christian Endeavor society. John's work often took him 200 miles or more away from home. Because he and Betty had taken the pledge, *I Promise Him*, they never failed to return home for the Christian Endeavor meetings, often having to drive many hours to make it. Is it any wonder that many young people were won to Christ through the influence of John and Betty, and that some of the members of that society are in full-time Christian service today, and others are serving the Lord effectively in their churches? It would have been so easy for John and Betty to have reasoned, "No one can expect us to drive so far to get back this week; we'll just visit a church somewhere."

At the Golden Jubilee Convention of Christian Endeavor held in San Francisco in 1931, Mrs. Francis E. Clark,

wife of the founder of our movement was present and a real blessing to everyone. In her address before the convention one day she said, "Many of my friends thought it was foolish for an old lady 80 years old to make the train travel across the country in the hot weather and they did their best to discourage me from coming, but I remembered the many years ago I had signed the Christian Endeavor Pledge which said, 'Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would have me do.' I felt that the Lord wanted me to come, and I gave Him the benefit of the doubt, and here I am."

Joe and Kenneth had been attending a Christian Endeavor society for several months. They were associate members because they had not accepted Christ as their Saviour. One night, near the close of the meeting, both boys stood to the feet. Joe said, "I'd like to say something. I've been coming to your meetings now for quite a while. I've been listening to what you have had to say. I've been watching you at school. Tonight I want to say that because I've seen what a difference being a Christian means in the life of two of you fellows especially, I want to become a Christian." Kenneth said, "That goes for me, too." The two boys sat down. What a happy group of young people went to the evening church service that night!

Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 6	Christ Deserves Our All	Luke 5:1
T. Jan. 7	Worthy of Worship	John 3:25
W. Jan. 8	Lordship Is His	Romans 14:1
T. Jan. 9	He Hears Our Promises	Acts 4:23
F. Jan. 10	Accountable for Words	Matthew 12:31
S. Jan. 11	Christ Helps Us Keep Promises	John 15:1
Sun. Jan. 12—Topic: A Personal Promise		Mark 14:26-31, 66

Comments by Mrs. Aldis L. Webb, wife of a retired Christian Church minister and teacher at a Christian day school in California

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, \$6 per dozen, \$48 per hundred.

Topic 3 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

Eager Endeavorers

Philippians 3:12-14



PUBLICIZING the Meeting

Pictures of a runner preparing for a race, either drawn free hand or cut from magazines, could form the basis for posters to advertise this meeting. Include the Scripture as recorded in Philippians 3:14, as well as all details of your meeting.

The same idea might be used for flyers to distribute to your age group in your Sunday school. In addition, be sure to have your meeting announced by one of your group to the Junior High department of your Sunday school. This should be a "must" for every meeting. Let others know what is going on in Christian Endeavor. Sooner or later they will feel they are missing something great (which, of course, they are) and will come to find out what it is all about.

PREPARING the Leader

You will need to be familiar with several things. First of all, the Christian Endeavor Pledge. If you do not know it from memory, learn it for your meeting. Especially if your society is not in the habit of repeating it every meeting, introduce that custom at this meeting and determine to see that it is carried out in all future meetings.

Secondly, be thoroughly familiar with the Scripture background of this topic. Read it several times a day during the time you are preparing your topic.

Next, make a list of the things you feel you and other young people of your age face every day which hinder you from serving the Lord, and which get in the way of your striving to do what He would like to have you do.

Finally, make a list of the possible ways to overcome these temptations—ways to substitute something good in place of the temptations. Ask your counselor for help in this.

PLACING the Counselor

The counselor has a definite "place" in this meeting. If you are a good counselor, you perhaps many times take a "back seat" and let the young people do everything for themselves. This is entirely the way it should be. However, this topic deals with down-to-earth problems of the young people, and you should have some "answers." If you work with the leader on the two lists mentioned in *Preparing the Leader*, you will be prepared to suggest when the time comes. Try not to be vague and too general—strive for definite solutions to the problems presented.

PROGRAMMING the Meeting

1. THE PRE-PRAYER SERVICE

Ask all who are to take part in your meeting (such as the one to read Scripture, offer prayer, sing, etc.) to come 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Have your counselor conduct a short prayer service, asking for the Lord to help all of you so that what you do will in turn be of much help to all of the young people who will attend your meeting.

2. THE SONG SERVICE

The following are suggested from *Christian Endeavor Songs*: *Christian Endeavor*; *Living for Jesus*; *I Need Thee Every Hour*; *More Like the Master*; *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*.

3. THE DEVOTIONS

Have one person read the Scripture given for this meeting, Philippians 3:12-14, another lead in the responsive reading of *Admonitions to Youth*, #6 in the back of the *Christian Endeavor Songs* or Psalm 40:1-10.

4. SPECIAL FEATURES

Have a vocal solo or duet in the devotional section, *O Jesus, I Have Promised*.

Conduct a "race" in the form of a Bible Drill, using the following verses which have to do with striving or the Christian race: Luke 13:24; I Corinthians 9:25; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:29; Hebrews 12:4; I Corinthians 9:24; Galatians 5:7; Hebrews 12:1; II Timothy 4:8; II Timothy 4:7; Philippians 3:14.

5. REPEAT THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PLEDGE

Make it a rule, if you are not doing it now, to repeat the Christian Endeavor Pledge at every Christian Endeavor meeting.

PRESENTING the Topic

I. SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

The Apostle Paul, whose inspired letterwriting helped Christians in the early Church and helps us today, gives us many suggestions as to how we should live as children of the Lord. In this third chapter of his letter to the Philip-

pians, verses 12-14, he first mentions being perfect. He says he is not perfect, but he strives to be perfect. This word "perfect" as it is used here, means to be adequate for some purpose. Paul wanted to fulfill the purpose for which Christ had spoken to him after his wonderful conversion on the Damascus Road. This word also means: full grown rather than underdeveloped; mature in mind rather than a beginner; a qualified one rather than a learner; a complete Christian rather than one who just "plays" at being a Christian.

Paul tells us two things in these verses. First, he is trying to do all that Christ wanted him to do. He knew he had had a miraculous vision and a calling for a particular thing. He felt he had not accomplished that, but should press on. Secondly, he wants to "forget those things . . . behind." This must have been hard for him to forget the life he led in the Law, condemning and persecuting others for serving the very Lord whom he now loves dearly. However, he felt he should act as a runner does who runs a straight course, looking not behind nor to either side, only to the goal ahead. Paul's goal was the "prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." No matter what happened in Paul's life after he became a Christian, and there were many, many things through which he had to pass, he never forgot his primary goal.

II. ACROSTIC FOR "STRIVE"

We promise in our pledge that we will "strive" to do. . . . Let us take a step by step look at what this means:

S—Stop! Many times it is good for us to do just this—stop! We are involved in so many pursuits. Young people are occupied in many interests at school and in the community. Every night is taken, our weekends are full.

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T—Take stock account! After we have “stopped” we should take an inventory. Is all that I am doing helping my Christian life and testimony, or should I consider getting rid of some things in my life?

R—Review your life! One by one, think over the things you spend your time doing. Weed out the unnecessary ones, the ones that take you away from the Lord.

I—Increase your prayer life! Make a determined effort to pray more and more systematically. Set aside more time and a certain time every day to pray. Make a prayer list of things and persons for whom you should be praying. Learn names of missionaries from your denominations so that your prayers will be for special people rather than just “bless the missionaries,” like you have been praying since you were very young.

V—Verify your faith! When we “verify” we “prove,” or “confirm.” Recall the time when you first accepted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Remember what He meant to you then. Should He not mean just so much more now?

E—Enter into closer fellowship with Christ! Promise Him that you are going to make a real effort to live as He wants you to live. Promise Him to give more time to Church activities and to winning others for Him. Promise to, within the next week, at least ask two people who do not come to Christian Endeavor, to come with you next week. Promise to act as a Christian when you are with the “gang.” Promise to “stand up and be counted” when someone uses the Name of the Lord in vain. Promise to live your life at home so that your family will know you love Christ and love them. Promise to make a better effort at studying so that when the Lord calls you to a particular task you will be prepared. Promise to read God’s Word regularly, at a regular time each day.

III. TEMPTATIONS THAT TANTALIZE

There are many things in this world to draw us away from serving Jesus Christ. Never has there been a time when the world was more attractive to young people. We can go great distances, we can be entertained in many ways, even in our own home. There just doesn’t seem to be time for every-

NEEDED FOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WEEK

The 1964 Christian Endeavor Week Packet is a must for every society that wants to properly observe the 83rd anniversary of the founding of Christian Endeavor.

Helpful items in the packet include: “A Manual for Guidance and Resource,” “A Radio Program,” “A Television Program,” and “A Friendly Hearts Party.”

There is still time to order your 1964 Packet from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 50c each.

thing. What is to take first place? Friends are unsympathetic to our wanting to live a Christian life. Should we give in to them? Even our families oftentimes are indifferent to our being loyal to Christ. Should this influence us?

The following are some temptations a young person has today. (The leader will add to and will ask for more suggestions from the group. He will lead a discussion, asking for answers from the group also, and will be prepared for suggestions that he may give to the group.)

1. The temptation of an indifferent family. They do not object to our going to church, but they think we are denying ourselves if we spend too much time there. They feel our activities should include more varied things. How may we face this?

2. The temptation of watching television too often. We want to spend more time in prayer, but when the time comes, it is more to our liking to see what is on TV. We want to regularly read our Bible, but we feel we must see the story on TV. We want to attend Christian Endeavor, but there is a new series of programs, and we want to see what they are like.

3. The temptation of extra-curricular activities at school. We like sports, fine. We take part in them, good. However, we are tempted to make this our entire life, so that when we are asked for something special at church, we simply do not have the time. We are asked to serve on school committees and feel we will be unpopular if we refuse. Yet this does not leave us time to serve on Christian Endeavor committees.

4. We have many unsaved friends. They do not care for the things of the Lord. They want you to do things and go places where you feel a Christian should draw the line. Yet you do not want to lose popularity with them, or contact with them. Is it possible to

reconcile your thoughts with theirs? possible, should you compromise with them?

5. We are tempted at home to let our devotions slide by because there is a lack of privacy. How can the Lord speak to us, how can we concentrate on reading His Word and talking with Him when we do not have a room of our own, and have younger brothers and sisters who will not let us alone?

6. There are many young people in our Sunday school who come Sunday after Sunday and go home again. They have no interest in Christian Endeavor in attending the worship services, prayer service, or any other activities of the church. It is tempting to just let them be and not get involved.

7. We want to act as a Christian at school, but there is the temptation of relaxing when we are at home. We let our temper when things go wrong, and because Mom and Dad are so good to us, we take advantage of them. After all, they have to be good to us whether we respond to them or not. It is tempting to “let our hair down” and forget our Christian kindness and love when we are just our family.

8. We have a “tough grind” at school. Things get to be too much for us. When temptation comes—let’s prepare ourselves for the coming test—will it matter if we are dishonest and cheat just this once? Everybody else does it, sooner or later. How can we get through otherwise? It is tempting!

By means of Scripture, help from your counselor, and group discussion, come to conclusions on these and other problems. Make it a practical time of “hashing out” matters on the hearts of the young people in your society.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 13	Delightful Obedience	Psalm 40:1-3
T. Jan. 14	Food for the Soul	I Peter 2:1-10
W. Jan. 15	A Patient Petitioner	I Thessalonians 3:1-10
T. Jan. 16	Regularity in Assembly	Hebrews 10:1-16
F. Jan. 17	Giving According to Ability	II Corinthians 8:1-15
S. Jan. 18	The Life That Produces	Matthew 5:1-12
Sun. Jan. 19—Topic:	Eager Endeavorers	Philippians 3:12-16

Comments by Mrs. Richard Cattermole, counselor for the young people’s society at Faith Evangelical Church, Temple, Pennsylvania, where her husband is minister

Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Week

"These My Brethren"

Matthew 25:40

(Denominational Day — Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Song Service: *In the Service of the King;*
Jesus Calls Us; Then Jesus Came
Responsive Scripture Reading: Number
13 (found in the back of *Christian
Endeavor Songs*)
Leader's Introduction
"Tator-Talks"
Offering and Announcements
Two-Minute Talks
Discussion Period
Leader's Conclusion
Hymn: *I Surrender All*
Sentence Prayers
Benediction

Preparation

Publicity:

In your publicity stress the uniqueness of the "Tater-Diggin' Time" program. Your poster should feature potatoes and the time and place of meeting.

For Your Meeting:

For this Christian Endeavor meeting you might ask the group to dress in overalls, print dresses, and aprons.

For the song service you might sing such old songs as: *The Old Account Was Settled*, *The Beautiful Garden of Prayer*, and *The Garden of My Heart*. Have several musical numbers and readings worked into the total program.

Prepare several potatoes by dressing them up as men and women. Place the following names on them: (1) *Spectator*, (2) *Imitator* (woman), (3) *Hesitator*, (4) *Agitator* (woman), (5) *Dictator*, and (6) *Sweet-Tater* (man and woman). When they are dressed properly put each in a paper bag and place them beneath separate potato hills. Have your hills marked so that your speakers will know which one they are to dig into.

Assign the different potato hills to your speakers. They must have their talks well in hand. After you have an outline of your program instruct your speakers that they are to dig out nuggets of truth from the topic.

To the Counselor

This meeting opens a real challenge to direct Endeavorers into a consideration of helpful service to Christ, the Church, and fellowmen. Coach several Junior Highs for presentation of these two minute talks:

Some Reasons Why Every Christian Should Render Service unto God:

1. *God demands it.* Matthew 6:6-8; Luke 16:1-13; Matthew 28:19.
2. *Gratitude to God prompts it.* Psalm 116:12.
3. *Our fellow-men need it.* Romans 10:13-17; Matthew 9:35-38.
4. *Our own present and eternal welfare requires it.*

At the end of the meeting plan a season of consecration led by the leader, president, or pastor. Urge definite consecration to specific service of some kind, in the church, Christian Endeavor society, or Sunday school. Let many respond in sentence prayers.

Leader's Introduction

Service to others in Christ's name and for his sake is the law of the Christian life. Just as the fruit is the natural expression of the life of the tree or the vine, so happy, unselfish, earnest service of others is the natural expression of the spiritual life of the Christian. A self-centered, self-satisfied, indifferent-to-others Christian is a misnomer, he simply does not exist. He may profess to be a Christian, to be spiritually alive, but the sure test that Christ gave us, "by their fruits ye shall know them," condemns them and places them outside the circle of Christ's disciples.

The Ministry of Kind Deeds

Sometimes the best testimony we can offer for Christ is not our words but our deeds. It is conduct that counts. Words are often so inadequate, so impotent, so easily misunderstood, but a kind deed or the constant radiance of a sweet, kind, generous spirit always makes its impression and speaks volumes as to the quality of our Christian profession. A cheery greeting, a kind word of appreciation, a word of encouragement and of sympathy, an understanding look, a flower, a letter, a visit, a gift in season, how much we all might do as the days are going by.

"Slightest actions often meet the sorest need.

For the world wants daily little kindly deeds;

Oh what joy and comfort you may help bestow

If you scatter sunshine everywhere you go."

Our Aims

1. To see how Junior Highs can express the feelings and needs of the unfortunate in their own community.

2. To sense that each society should consider and plan specific ways in which it can render benevolent service in the name of Christ in and beyond, even unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

3. To make vivid the words of Jesus on ministering in his name.



*Somebody did a golden deed,
Proving himself a friend in need;
Somebody sang a cheerful song,
Brightening the skies the whole day long—
Was that somebody you?"*

Christ's Attitude Toward Human Suffering and Need

In a very literal and vital way, Jesus identifies himself with man's direst needs and greatest helplessness. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me." Every hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned person is a brother or sister of Christ, and so deeply interested is he in them, the welfare of these is so intimately and vitally wrapped up in him, that to minister to their needs, is to minister to him personally. What an astounding statement! What a revelation of human values in the eyes of Jesus! What a revelation of Christ's love for the neediest and most wretched of humanity! It is the spirit of Christ at work in our world that has effected changed attitudes.

The spirit of Christ has completely changed society's attitude toward the criminal class. The state formerly arrested criminals and locked them up to punish them. Jails and prisons were instruments of revenge and torture. They stimulated hatred and revenge in the hearts of the prisoners against the state

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and against society. They became in many instances breeding places of crime and criminals. In these latter years we are coming to look upon our prisons and jails not as places of punishment merely, but as places of reform or redemption.

Christ's ministry to the sick, the crippled, the distressed revealed his great love and sympathy for men as nothing else in his life did except Calvary. How quickly his eye caught sight of the sick and how promptly his great heart of sympathy and love went out to them in practical helpfulness. Wherever the words and spirit of Jesus have gone, this tender sympathetic attitude of heart toward the sick and suffering has manifested itself in practical helpfulness. Hence hospitals, sanitariums, homes for the helpless, feeble-minded, the blind, the deaf, the insane, the aged, have always accompanied the preaching of the Gospel of Christ.

The book of James, like Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, deals with the practical application of a real faith in God. From the beginning to the end of the book, the writer insists that Christianity is meaningless unless its social and moral ideals are put into action. The phrase "faith without works is dead," is a familiar phrase of the writer's own coining. This principle of the practical application of our faith is congenial to us twentieth-century Christians.

The full Gospel of Christ includes concern for people who are less fortunate than we are. The Christian gives expression of his love to God by being of service to his fellowman. We read in the book of Acts how the early Church sensed its responsibility to those in need by appointing men especially to care for the poor.

In a parable related to his disciples, Jesus taught that to share with others was also sharing with him. In J. B. Phillips' translation of Matthew 25:40 we read, "and the King will reply, 'I assure you that whatever you did for the humblest of my brothers, you did for me.'"

It is one thing to claim the Golden Rule as our pattern. It is quite another thing to live by it. Young people are by nature moved by a challenge! What greater challenge is there than this? There are underprivileged children in your community, what do you do to help them? There is a colored lad in your classroom, have you welcomed him into the fellowship of your circle of friends? or of your home? There are those in your church who feel out of touch with others because they have not been included in

Questions for Discussion

1. If you were a member of a minority group what would you expect of the majority? How would you want to be treated? Does this apply in our present treatment of these persons?

2. Imagine yourself as a native of China, India, or Africa. You have come to know something of what Christianity teaches. Knowing also how so-called Christian countries have exploited your people, would you be strongly drawn to accept the Christian faith?

3. Make a careful analysis of your local church and town. Is the Golden Rule practiced? How might it be brought into the life of your church and community more meaningfully?

4. What is the joy of ministering to Christ?

5. To what "brethren" of Christ may we minister? How?

6. How can we develop more sympathy?

Christian Endeavor activities, have you made an effort to share your fellowship with them?

In the Christian life there are two types of sin, commission and omission—but the greatest of these is omission. Marguerite Wilkinson phrases it well:

"I never cut my neighbor's throat; my neighbor's gold I never stole;

"I never spoiled his house and land; but God have mercy on my soul!"

"For I am haunted night and day by all the deeds I have not done."

Quoted from *Vision, A Student's Guide to Private Worship*, written by John Clayton, The Presbyterian Student Association, Columbia, Missouri, 1949.

The widest gap in human experience is that between knowing and doing. Jesus knew this well, and so in a few words he gave a crystal clear command for those who sought to follow him in Kingdom living. "Do unto others as ye would that they should do to you." We cannot evade this statement. Try though we will we are haunted by it when we turn from it. Truly, "never man so spake."

Illustrative Incidents

A girl from the country landed in the rooming district of Boston. She worked in a department store all day. In the evening she had no place to go to but a dark, dingy, lonely, back hall-room. Do you wonder that by and by in the lonely evening she began to go to the movies, with their brighter lights outside, the crowds and music and sensational pictures on the inside? This led to bad company, to late hours, to lax conduct, slack morals, and ultimately to her downfall. She perhaps had to pass

two or three or more churches on her way to the movies; they were dark and cheerless and indifferent. What are we doing for the strangers and lonely ones in our community? What are we doing for the strangers who drop into our church service and Christian Endeavor meetings? Do we go to them promptly, see that they are comfortably seated, have hymn books, and when services are over, do we greet them cordially, inquire who they are and invite them back again? Or do we meet in little cliques and let the stranger and lonely one slip out alone, lonelier than before?

Remember the story of the small boy carrying a very heavy load up a steep hill on a country lane. Somebody asked him if it were not too heavy a load for him to carry. The boy replied, "He's not heavy mister, he's my brother."

Because Jesus came, we have the spirit of caring. We are sorry when someone else is in need. Their plight is our opportunity to share. Their tears moisten our eyes also. Their burden becomes our load to lighten. We are never really happy until we do something worthwhile for others in the true Christmas spirit.

E. Stanley Jones points out that it is to the everlasting shame of Christians that we profess love but live selfishly; that we proclaim brotherhood and live by a strict rule of racial segregation and discrimination that we declare ourselves as concerned first about Christ, but give priority to wealth and material things.

George Washington Carver, the great Negro chemist who helped the white businessmen of the South to make millions of dollars through his discoveries, had to take the freight elevator when he was called to attend a meeting in Washington. George Carver was a Christian gentleman. He gave away his discoveries to all who desired them, even though he was constantly treated as inferior.

There is engraved on an old slab in the Cathedral of Lubeck, Germany, the following powerful words:

"You call Me Master and obey Me not,
You call Me Light and see Me not,
You call Me Way and walk not,
You call Me Life and desire Me not,
You call Me Wise and follow Me not,
You call Me Fair and love Me not,
You call Me Mighty and honor Me not,
You call Me Just and fear Me not,
If I condemn you, blame Me not."

Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 20 Christ Was Poor
If Corinthians 8:1-18
T. Jan. 21 He Came to the Poor Luke 4:16-21
W. Jan. 22 The Early Church Shared
Acts 2:43-47
T. Jan. 23 God Chooses the Poor James 2:1-4
F. Jan. 24 The Righteous Inherit the Kingdom Matthew 25:31-46
S. Jan. 25 The Unrighteous Are Sentenced Matthew 25:41-46
Sun. Jan. 26—Topic: "These My Brethren" Matthew 25:47-50

(Denominational Day—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Veh, editor of BUILDERS, Evangelical United Brethren youth magazine

Topics

FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

Trusting for Strength

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Purpose of the Meeting

This is the first Sunday in the new year and it is an opportune time for a consecration and dedication service. This topic lends itself to dedication with its thrust of Trusting for Strength.

This is also the first topic of a series of three on the Christian Endeavor Pledge. It is hoped in this emphasis that you and your group may have a greater appreciation and understanding of the content and depth of meaning of this great pledge.

Publicity for the Meeting

It will be wise to emphasize the importance of this meeting in relation to the time of year it is held. You could make invitations with the heading "The new year calls for commitment" or "The new year demands trust for strength." State clearly the time, place, and topic of the meeting. If refreshments are to be served make note of this as well.

Often the question is raised during the holiday season if a meeting will be held, so it is very important that adequate announcement is made concerning the meeting. Make certain the pastor or whoever makes out the church bulletin is aware of the meeting and has the proper information.

This is also a good opportunity to put the lookout committee to work. Your society may want to have a membership drive as the new year begins. The committee members can use this meeting as an appeal to come and join the group. In all of the publicity use your head, and utilize whatever you may have to convey the information of the meeting as well as enthusiasm for the meeting.

Guide Lines for Counselors

The topic lends itself to a call for commitment to Christ. It would be wise to alert the leaders to this possibility and maybe give them some ideas as to how this aspect of the program can be carried out, thinking especially of local situations and needs. This is the first Sunday of a new year and how wonderful it would be to have a dedicatory service based on "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength." It would also be possible to incorporate the biennial theme of the International Society of Christian Endeavor "Through Christ I Can." In the pre-prayer service this emphasis should be given and pray for those youth who have not committed their life to Christ.

Guide Lines for the Leader

This is the first Sunday in the new year and it is an opportunity to get off to a good start and show the young people some real purpose in life. First you must prepare yourself. Then review in your own mind what the group did throughout the past year, where they made gains and where they failed. After having reviewed this, tailor your presentation so that it will speak to the needs of the group.

One approach to use is to ask each one present to share one of their new year's resolutions and what it means to them. (One finds that in sharing resolutions he will also strive harder to maintain them.) After sharing these have a brief dedicatory service Hymn of consecration: *A Charge to Keep I Have*. Some poem of dedication and consecration. Here it would be well if this were printed and all could pray it in unison. Some ideas to be included would be: praise to God, confession of past failure and sin, asking of spiritual guidance and strength for the future with an emphasis on the resolutions made by the group, then dedication of time and talents—all that we have. Having prayed this prayer the Scripture Romans 12:1,2 can be read and close with the hymn *I Would Be True*. It would be fitting to have this as the service of dedication and consecration following the topic presentation.

Whatever you do make certain it speaks to the need of your group, and tailor your emphasis according to their need.

Talks on the Topic

The Place of Strength

The accomplishment of any worthwhile project is dependent upon strength. The active ingredient in all that we do is strength. The success or failure of an activity or project is dependent upon strength. With these three initial statements (which you may desire to discuss) we place strength in a very high and important place in life.

We must understand strength in its broadest concept. It is more than "the quality or state of being strong" as *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* defines it. It is also a power, an active power which can either be for or against. Webster also gives the meaning of "in-

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude and quiet meditation
Call to Worship: Psalm 145:3,18
Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
Prayer for God's blessing on the meeting followed with the Lord's Prayer in unison.
Hymn: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 37:1-5
New Testament Lesson: II Corinthians 10:1-7
Ministry of Music
Prayer
Offertory and Offertory prayer
Announcements
Hymn of Presentation: *Breathe On Me, Breath of God*
Topic presentation
Service of Dedication and Consecration: (have enough pledge cards which can be given out and signed at this time)
Hymn: *Take my Life, and Let It Be*
Benediction
Closing: Have the group sing *Spirit of the Living God*



tensity" to the word. Here we note that vigor and power are combined to make this word take on the concept of dynamite. Noting these few meanings to the word we want to take a look at three areas where we see strength, and usually think of strength (you may desire to go into greater detail on the definition of terms—if so see any comprehensive dictionary).

Types of Strength

LEADER: Physical strength—whenever we think of physical strength we think of the husky football player; we see the strapping construction worker. Weight lifters amaze us with their ability to lift a number of pounds. So we could go on to cite those whom we note as having great physical strength. But here is one to give personal testimony of his physi-

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cal strength (at this point have a young fellow play the role using the following as suggestions).

ROLE PLAYER: As you folks know I'm a wrestler at the local high school. Many have complimented me on my ability and success. You have wondered how I got this strength. Let us get one thing clear—I have the same muscles as you have. I found that in doing the exercises the coach prescribed, in working out regularly, and obeying training rules my body began to develop and grow stronger. This did not happen over night, and did not come easy, but with persistent hard work I found that soon I was able to co-ordinate my strength, and engage in the sport of wrestling.

Mental Strength

LEADER: As we have looked at physical strength we must not overlook mental strength. Whenever we think of mental strength we think of the brain, the one who is getting the high grades in school. I'm sure most of us would be willing to admit that in this area too, there is real strength. (*name of person*) will speak to us on mental strength (again use role playing).

ROLE PLAYER: Some people think that all I do is study and "apple polish the teacher", and hence I get on the honor roll. This is the common opinion among many of my classmates. This, I feel, isn't so. I know we all have different strengths and weaknesses, and a real strength of mine is my mind. I love to study. I find learning is not a chore but a pleasure. And since I have these God given talents, I must use and develop them. Even as the previous speaker said that he had to train and work, I also had to discipline myself to study and be faithful even when I did not care to do so. I think that each of us could develop this gift of our mind in our own way and realize it as a great strength, and seek to strengthen it.

Spiritual Strength

LEADER: Spiritual strength is often thought of as a quality given to the pastor, church leader, Sunday school teacher, and youth advisor. We as young people are quite content to go on our way with little or no regard in this area. Our Christian Endeavor Pledge speaks of strength and it is vitally concerned with spiritual strength. Let us listen as one of our spiritual leaders tells us of his strength (here again use role playing).

ROLE PLAYER: I marvel at those who have physical strength, I am amazed at those with great mental ability, and I'm humbled at spiritual strength. As one looks through the ages at the saints who were leaders of the church and see such men as Paul, Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Knox, Moody, and Graham, we stand in awe at the power of spiritual strength. As a leader in the church today, I feel this is a strength we must rediscover and learn anew. It is a strength we need to develop and stand for in every area of life. The work of Christian Endeavor has taught me great lessons, and assisted me in growing strong spiritually. I find this strength a great comfort in sorrow, presence in trial, and joy in living. My desire is that we all may know and grow in spiritual strength.

LEADER: We have heard from three people in their area of strength. In everyday life we cannot neatly and clearly dissect the three strengths spoken of as they are all part of us, and need our attention. We must realize them as strengths, as positive forces. Now that we better understand the meaning and significance of strength let us look at what the pledge says. "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for Strength . . ."

Lasting Strength

In our generation of moral and spiritual decay we find ourselves caught up in the trap of "giving-up". The pledge calls for trust and strength. This is not strength which passes away in the heat of the battle or in a dark hour in life. But a strength which is strengthened in the time of trial and discouragement. It is the concept of strength to strength, from more to more. Here we have the great thrust of growing. Life is not a static, but a constant maturing and growing from more to more.

Now that we have heard concerning physical, mental and spiritual strength, and said all of this we are missing an important fact. The great fact is Jesus Christ. It is wonderful that the pledge doesn't read "Trusting in (*your name*) for strength," what a sad story it would be. But it says Jesus Christ!

Saving Strength

We must recall the great work which Christ accomplished for us. His boundless love broke the barrier of sin and gave to us His great salvation. Christ stands as an eternal symbol of real strength—not weakness but strength. When Christ cried it is finished it was not in weakness but spiritual victory.

When we think of all of this and what it means I'm sure we can realize our strength comes from a power greater and higher than ourselves. This gives great encouragement for I realize that Christ's strength is the supreme strength and His power the Almighty power, and His concern the noblest concern. I realize I am called upon to give example of this strength as I find it in Him.

Knowing what Christ did and how it affects us; we must also realize that the Holy Spirit is the continual motivating power in the world today. Let us never forget that as we grow and realize our strength, that we must be aware of the ever presence of the Almighty as witnessed in the Holy Spirit. We walk alone on life's road, the Saviour walks beside us.

Our Obligation

This all means that if we desire strength to do and strength to live we must be willing to accept Christ as our Saviour and Lord, and then trust Him for strength. (If time permits here you could engage in a discussion of the word trust.) This is the most important aspect of this first part of the pledge—that we trust Christ alone for strength. This does not mean we can sit and wait for it but we must be doing. Remember what our three speakers said. There was always the element of practice, of study, of learning, of discipline and the result is growth and greater strength.

As we trust Christ in a genuine and wholesome manner, and seek through His direction to learn to use our own common sense and have within us a real desire to grow, we will find that the first phase of the Christian Endeavor Pledge a wonderful reality.

Are you willing to have Christ your Saviour and know strength?

Are you willing to have the Holy Spirit lead your life?

Are you ready to commit your entire life to Christ and His Church?

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 30	Trust in the Lord	Psalms 37:1-5
T. Dec. 31	Trusting God	Psalms 62:1-8
W. Jan. 1	God Our Shield	Psalms 115:1-8
T. Jan. 2	Trust Always	John 13:1-17
F. Jan. 3	Trust Not Riches	Mark 10:23-25
S. Jan. 4	Trust Not Ourselves	II Corinthians 1:1-11

Sun. Jan. 5—Topic: Trusting for Strength
Proverbs 3:5-6

Comments by Rev. Roger D. Vander Kolk, associate pastor of the First Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan

Topic 2 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

Striving to Do

James 1:19-22

Our Aims

1. To stress that Christianity demands active "doing."
2. To stress that striving denotes a continued regularity.

Program Hints

Pre-Prayer Service: Have all the participants in the program there.

Song Service: *Saved to Tell Others; 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus; O Worship the King.*

Sentence Prayers

Scripture: James 1:19-22

Hymn: *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story*

Offering and Offertory prayer

Announcements

Topic

Discussion and Challenge to do

Closing prayer

Leader Hints

This topic is the second in a series of three on the pledge. It would be well if you used the pledge in your worship program.

To refresh your memory a careful review of last week's topic would be to your advantage.

Be sure to prepare yourself for the job before you. Ask God's guidance and direction, try to sense the needs of the young people and give practical helps wherever possible. The topic material is a guide for you, but always make certain you make it relevant and meaningful for the hearers.

It may be possible in this meeting to have a Bible quiz. There is a section on the Bible and the necessity to study it. Have the young people either share a favorite Bible verse or see how many they know from memory.

Publicity Hints

Action is the by-product of doing and striving. The publicity should show the aspect of action. Make a poster with the form of a runner and place in bold letters *striving*, and in smaller lettering the other information concerning the meeting. Remember that the telephone is a good means of inviting a friend, and a personal contact is better yet.

Use every means of publicity you have in your church to alert people to your meeting—bulletin, bulletin board, church paper, etc.

Committee Hints

The church activity committee should have some project or program to initiate at this meeting. In the area of striving to do it is well to do while the matter is still one of concern. So that after the topic presentation the chairman of the committee could present the challenge for action through a concrete project. See the pastor or any of your church leaders for ideas.

Topic Hints

Our Scripture for this meeting says "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves," James 1:22. This is a great commandment for Christians and the Church of today. In this topic we want to see the challenge of this in our own lives. Most of us for over the past many years have been hearers of the word, and as we have heard that word we have done something with it. Some have openly rebelled against it and thrown it to the wind; others have willfully ignored it and have an "I don't care" attitude. Still others have heard and felt the conviction of doing something but still have not come to the point of getting off the launching pad. Or you may be one who is consciously striving to do; striving to be a doer as well as a hearer of the Word and what it has for you and can do for others. Striving to be vessels filled and used for Christ and the Church.

The Christian Endeavor Pledge focuses our attention on the importance of James 1:22 when it emphasizes the necessity to strive. Do you remember what it says? "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would have me do." If we take seriously the Word of God and believe the pledge of Christian Endeavor to be meaningful and something which we can affirm, then we are face to face with the matter of action. God never called for sleeping, lazy workers. He wants those who will be willing to follow Him, to do what He would have them do. Remember the man Gideon, a great Old Testament leader, he was to fight a battle and the Lord cut his forces to a mere 300 men. Gideon followed God's command as



foolish and absurd as it may have seemed to him. Yet because he obeyed there was victory and something was accomplished.

Our Motivation

What is our motivation to be doers for Christ? This is a question which must be considered very seriously. Why do we as youth do things? (At this point call for discussion from the group and list the items mentioned on the chalkboard and discuss them briefly as to why they motivate and to what end.) Some might be: self satisfaction, self glory, desire to help others, because they have to—forced by leaders and or parents, and to serve their Christ. These are all reasons which people have for doing things. Most likely in our life there is not just one but many things which are all factors in doing a task. Let us look carefully at our own motivation and see what it is that makes us a doer.

Whenever the matter of striving or doing is discussed we hear this age-old excuse "he can do it better than I can." Note again the Scripture and pledge, there is not a call for a comparative analysis but for a self study in light of what God would have me to do. We are not striving when we shrug off responsibility and let someone else carry it out simply because we can't do it as well as someone else. Make this a matter of personal concern. We must remember what Christ and His glorious message did for us and then do, knowing that here is a power greater than ourselves.

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Last week's topic spoke of trusting for strength, and if we trust surely there will follow a striving to do. Trusting in Christ we will strive to do. Here should be our motivation, here should be our source of power, and here should be our abiding strength. If we trust what we have heard and believe it to be the power of God unto salvation we will strive to be whatever He would have us to be, and go wherever He would have us go, and do whatever He would have us do.

(Have the group take their Bibles and look up Ephesians 4:1,2,17,23.) These passages indicate how we should strive. Here is where we often get bogged down in our doing. There are a few important words in these verses forbearing, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, and love. We often think when we do and strive we can do as we right well please. These are a few words which must be kept in mind as we strive to do. Humility is a Christian character and necessary in carrying out our responsibility. This is not a bashful or retiring sort of attitude, but one of knowing our place in life. These passages were written by Paul who was by no means a bashful or retiring person. As he writes to the people in Ephesus he reminds them that he is imprisoned because of what he did. Note too, he speaks of this as a vocation. The Christian life is a vocation, in fact it is a full time job. We must strive, for if we don't we won't grow. It is said that we learn by doing. It is necessary to strive, for in doing so we grow. But we must do this in humility.

In Ephesians 5:8 we read in the last phrase "walk as children of light." We are called to walk in the light of Jesus Christ and must strive to do whatever He would have us do. Christ said that we as Christians are the light of the world. Light dispels darkness and enables one to see his path. We are to be leaders of people, to show them the light of the world. To win them to Christ and service in His Church.

So from these two Scripture passages we see that we have a pattern of how to strive. The emphasis is "love Christ first and your neighbor as yourself." With this as the important fact in life we will be able to do what He would have us do.

Our Progress

When we use the word strive we admit that we have not yet attained. It tells us that we are less than we ought

to be. Hence there is need for progress in our life. So often the Christian life is a thing which begins with great conviction and enthusiasm, but then as time goes on it cools and becomes lukewarm. As Christian Endeavorers we need to grow. Even as in physical growth some grow and mature faster than others so in the spiritual life. But there must be a constant growing or else there will be stagnation and life will be a bore and not worth living.

The apostle Paul is a fine example of this principle. In writing to the church at Philippi he speaks of his own spiritual life and growth. After speaking concerning attainment and achieving he tells us that he hasn't yet attained and then he comes out with these striking words "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," Philippians 3:14. There is a need for progress in life which is constant and progressive. Paul lived a vigorous and active Christian life. As we would say, he was always on the go. Now this does not mean that he always had his own way. He wanted to go to Spain but the Lord wanted him in Rome. He made his desire known, but was always willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He had a life of purposeful progress.

Our life is often run by the big "me". Our progress is selfish. "I promise that I will strive to do whatever He would have me do." These words again bring us to the reality of the pledge. Are we willing to have our lives led by Jesus Christ? If not, let us not even say the words of the pledge because we don't mean it anyway.

In order to know the will of God, and to know what He would have us do, we must know His word. The necessity for Bible study is basic at this point. The Bible stands as God's revelation in the world today. And how can we know His will when we don't know what He says. The Bible is the Christian's guidebook, compass, and textbook. We are in a world which has curtailed the use of the Scriptures, so we as Christians must engage in deeper Bible study, learning the Word so that we may share it with others. The church is called on to heed the call of Christ to train for leadership in the world. Is our youth program enabling us to do and more effectively carry out the mission of the Church?

Many people who know the Bible, find themselves in church, and are active in religious affairs, are playing a role; they are only acting. We must ask ourselves if we are acting or are we striving

to the best of our ability and with the help of God to carry out the mission He has given to us. First, to live a Christ-like life and secondly to win others for Christ. We are called upon to use our time, talents, our all for the cause of Christ. We are not simply Sunday Christians we are full time Christians with a full time job of being Christian and carrying out the mission Christ has given us, whatever it may be. How can we best use our talents, time, and life for Christ? (This is a good time for discussion; think especially of your everyday life in answering the questions.)

Conclusion

In this topic we have spoken of action—doing something. Christ has given each of us a set of marching orders. It may be to win a friend to Jesus Christ, it may be to love the unlovely, it may be to give ourselves to assist a friend, it may be to participate more actively in the work of the society and church. Whatever it may be are you willing to say with sincerity of heart "I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would have me do?"

Further Questions for Discussion

1. How is the word "discipline" and the word "disciple" related? What does this say to us?
2. What or who enables us to do God's will?
3. Why is it imperative for us to be a "doer" as well as a "hearer" of the Word?

Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 6	Present Your Body	Romans 12:1,2
T. Jan. 7	Strive to Enter	Luke 13:24-30
W. Jan. 8	Turn from Idols	I Thessalonians 1:1-10
T. Jan. 9	Serve One Another	Galatians 6:1-10
F. Jan. 10	Serve God	Romans 6:1-11
S. Jan. 11	Serve as Christ Served	John 13:1-17
Sun. Jan. 12	Topic: Striving to Do	James 1:19-25

Comments by Rev. Roger D. Vander Kolk, associate pastor of the First Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, \$6 per dozen, \$48 per hundred.

Topic 3 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Pledge

Seeking for Guidance

Ephesians 6:10-18



Suggestions for Worship

Pre-Prayer Service
 Hymns: *Trust and Obey; He Leadeth Me; I Need Jesus*
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-18
 Hymn: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*
 Sentence Prayers
 Announcements and Offering
 Hymn: *Living for Jesus*
 Topic Discussion
 Hymn: *Trusting Jesus*
 Closing prayer and Benediction

Our Aims

1. To point out the need for guidance in our own personal lives and as we live in the world around us.
2. To discover the spiritual weapons that are available to us.

Suggestions for the Church Activity Committee

Seeking for guidance is something in which all Christians are interested as they seek to do their task in this world. This is a good opportunity for this committee to introduce a project. A good project would be enumerating the ways to fight communism. Christian citizenship should be an active part of every society program. In the meeting there may come up some suggestions as to ways you can combat these ideologies today. Your committee should make work of it, and get things started.

Suggestions for Publicity

This is an important part of the program. So often we have poor response at our meetings because someone forgot to publicize the meeting. It is important that the publicity be gotten out early to enable the young people to plan ahead. The publicity need not be elaborate or expensive. But it should be attractive and striking. It must communicate the message intended. Be very sure that all the program essentials are included. The time and place of meeting are exceedingly important. The topic, and whatever procedure is used in presenting it, should be listed.

Suggestions for the Leader

This topic is the last in a series of three in the Christian Endeavor Pledge. For your own information and background it would be wise for you to read the previous two programs and make this a real cap-stone for the pledge.

Within the topic material there is a suggestion for a buzz group approach. This type of presentation is strongly recommended. You as a leader must set the stage. Make a clear and concise introduction, then pose some thought questions. A good question would be: *How can we as Christians battle communism and the other ideologies?* When the buzz groups have finished, after about ten or fifteen minutes, call the group together again and let the chairman of each group share his findings. Then it is your responsibility to tie all the loose ends together and give the summary with the emphasis on the title of the topic.

It might also be possible to go right from the summary of the buzz group experience to an open discussion on some of the questions found within the topic material. This is a live and vital issue, and one which needs action. Encourage the youth to do something now about their obligation to Christ and His Church.

Suggestions for the Counselor

Your insights into the ideologies of our day will be of great benefit to the leader. Communism came into power in your life time and you may well be able to share some insights as to its development and rapid spread.

Then too, give cooperation to the leader and offer your help in whatever way you can. Also encourage your youth in their work; when they have done a good job tell them about it. Understand them when things don't go well. In all that you do be the understanding counselor and constant friend.

Talks on the Topic

The Conflict

One of the greatest conflicts in the world today is that of a Christian striving to do what Christ would have him do, and the world with all its power and might trying to make him conform to its pattern and way of obedience. To put it very frankly, we live in a generation where it is very easy to follow the crowd. We do this because we do not know in our own hearts what is right and wrong, so we become conformist. We dread conflict, and the easiest way to avoid this is to become a "yes man" and follow and believe everything anyone tells you. If the Christian Endeavor Pledge means anything to you it will bring into focus this conflict. Note again the opening phrase of the pledge,

"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength". Then the second phrase speaks of striving, "I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would have me do." We go to the last phrase and read these words, "and in them all I will seek the Saviour's guidance." "In them" refers to all that was said earlier; that we will make it a rule of our life to pray and read the Bible, to support the work of our church, take part in the meetings of the society, seek to win others to Christ, give to the spread of the kingdom, advance our country's welfare, and promote the Christian brotherhood of man. With this list the Christian Endeavorer is pledged to responsibility and a job. This job will bring him into direct conflict with the world and make his life one of real service and challenge for Christ and the Church.

Some of the greatest conflicts in life are the battle of ideologies. Communism, materialism, and atheism are three prevalent and present conflicts. The Christian being in the world is faced with these systems of thought and these concepts in life. There is one characteristic in these three systems of thinking which make them very difficult to deal with; they are all man centered. They all negate or minimize the Deity and especially the person and work of Jesus Christ. So hence the Christian must seek guidance in battling against these ways of life. We must ask God's direction in dealing with this great conflict in life. (Here it would be possible to divide the society into buzz groups and have them discuss the conflict and see if they could come back to the group with some concrete suggestions in fighting this battle.)

Personal Guidance

Before we can engage in an active assault on the wickedness of the world we must have convictions within our

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own heart. *Am I really against communism, and why? Is materialism really a problem in today's world? Isn't atheism an accepted concept in today's world?* These are questions which we must answer in our own mind and heart. How deep are our own Christian convictions? Are we really striving to do what Jesus would have us do? The whole matter of personal conviction and commitment is at the basis of all our actions, and one must be certain that he has a right relationship with Jesus Christ and is willing to take up his cross and follow Him.

Then there must be a plan in our own life. This is not at all easy, God doesn't always come with answers and direction just when we want them, and when we think we ought to have them. It is through searching the Scripture, in prayer and consolation with fellow believers that we gain wisdom into what God would have us to do. Our job is to seek for guidance from above and from within the church.

World Conflict

As we struggle with our personal convictions, we face as well the conflict in and with the world around us. These two struggles are interwoven and provide a real challenge in life. The world struggle is not one in which the battle is easily won or the foe is conquered, but it is one which needs our constant attention. So often the church has been talking to herself, and we as Christians seem to carry on the struggle all alone with ourselves. With the convictions we have and God's Word we must fight, not in an angry manner, but in earnest, and with sincerity of heart. Christ spoke of the Christian life as a struggle, as a conflict, as a battle and as an active aspect of life. Paul writes very vividly at this point. He often refers to the Christian armor, the fight of the Christian, the inner and world conflict of the believer. In all these things Paul is aware of two great forces, the personal and the world struggle, and in this all we as he must seek the guidance of the Lord.

In the conflict of world and soul we need equipment. Ephesians 6:13-17 gives us some very vivid and clear cut pictures of the Christian armor. Note them: "Loins girt about with truth," "breast plate of righteousness," "feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace," "shield of faith," "helmet of salvation," and "the sword of the Spirit." All of these refer to battle garb and denote the Christian's conflict. It also

tells us that the Christian's battle often is a defensive battle, for this passage speaks mostly of the defensive items of warfare. It is well to note also the great spiritual concepts which the battle attire represents. We must ask ourselves these questions: In the Christian warfare do I have salvation as a reality in my life? Is righteousness a glorious reality in my own thinking?

Faith and the Gospel of peace are two other great concepts in this portion of Paul's writing and we must ask ourselves if they are a part of us. In the soul's struggle for right these concerns should be our concerns. There is a need for the Bible to be our sword and main stay in battle. We need the positive faith founded in Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of peace is an ingredient which the world is seeking. Now what are we going to do about it? Are we willing to yield to Christ and to willingly seek His Divine guidance with a will to do?

The Victory

One concept which underlies all that we have said is that of the victory we have in Christ. Christ by His death and glorious resurrection has conquered death and the grave and become the Victor over evil. In this great teaching we find our power and strength. Trusting in this Christ I can strive to do and willingly seek His guidance for I know and realize in a limited sense His victory over sin and wickedness.

Now as we look at Communism, materialism, and atheism we can truly carry on our defensive tactic realizing Christ is the Victor! We are not often convinced of this. It seems that the world is rampant with these godless ideologies and it would appear to the rationalist that Christianity is a lost cause—we are sunk. With this defeatist attitude Christ has lost some of His best warriors. So often we find the Christian taking a back seat in life's conflicts and keeping a fairly good distance away so that he will not be caught up by these false teachings. Seeking God's guidance we must be in the midst of the battle defending the faith and giving testimony to the glorious faith which we have.

Preparation

We must ask ourselves the all important question. How well are we prepared to stand for Christ as strong witnesses to the victory already won? Have we applied ourselves to the task of searching out God's word and are we applying it to our hearts? Have we taken a good look within our own heart and know what is found there? Have we tried to

yield ourselves fully to Jesus and His command? When the doors of opportunity for leadership or an opportunity to stand up for what we believe was opened did we take advantage of it, or let it pass by unnoticed? These are all items which must be thought of as we look at what we are doing as soldiers of Jesus Christ, as Christian Endeavorers. So often we aren't endeavoring, we have become stalemated in our life and our spiritual growth is stunned.

Christ has not asked us to conquer the world single-handed. He said that He would be with us, and if we have the defensive armor, we are prepared to stand guard for the truth. When we accept Christ as our Saviour we are under His command and He gives the marching orders. We are called on to seek His guidance so that we may know what He would have us do.

The pledge speaks of many things to do as a Christian, but we must always seek the Saviour's guidance.

Questions for Discussion

1. Where can we seek for guidance?
2. What are some conflicts that we confront at school?
3. Does knowledge help us to discern the path we should take in many of life's problems?
4. How can Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Witness help us to battle against the ideologies that would drag us down?
5. How is Communism like Christianity?

Quotes about the Pledge

The pledge is our Declaration of Independence; by taking it we break away from indifference, indefiniteness, cowardice, and sloth.

The pledge is our banner; by taking it we have set up a standard of character and attainment. It is a banner that is ever moving forward, and we propose to move forward with it.

The pledge is our program. It is our schedule of living. It is the ordering of our lives along the noblest ways.

—Amos R. Wells

Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 13	The Lord Guides	Isaiah 58:8-10
T. Jan. 14	Guide of Youth	Jeremiah 3:1-10
W. Jan. 15	The Way of Peace	Luke 1:67-79
T. Jan. 16	Guide to Truth	John 16:1-15
F. Jan. 17	Need for Guidance	Acts 8:26-40
S. Jan. 18	Need for God	Psalms 6:1-10
Sun. Jan. 19—Topic: Seeking for Guidance		Ephesians 6:10-18

Comments by Rev. Roger D. Vander Kolk, associate pastor of the First Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan

Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Week

"These My Brethren"

Matthew 25:40

(Denominational Day — Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

Suggested Program

Piano or Organ Prelude
 Hymn to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2
 Hymns: *Praise Him, Praise Him; Give of Your Best to the Master*
 Responsive Reading: *Discipleship*
 Gloria Patri
 Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:31-40
 Prayers of Confession and Thanksgiving
 Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*
 Announcements
 Offering
 Presentation of Topic
 Discussion of Topic
 Prayers of Supplication and Intercession
 Hymn: *More Like the Master*
 Benediction

Publicity and Promotion

Make several posters to place in the church and Sunday school where they will be certain to be seen. On the posters place sheep on one side and goats on the other. These should be so placed on either side as to give the impression of activity. That can best be achieved by placing them at different angles and facing in different directions. Between the sheep and goats print these words: *Are you among the sheep or the goats? If you wish to find out, come to the meeting of the Senior High-Young People's Christian Endeavor Society (day, date, hour, and place).*

To arouse interest (let the members know at least a week in advance, better, two weeks) wear as a lapel hanging a cutout of a sheep in white and a goat in black. These can be tied to a string, each a different length. On the sheep print the word "Yes". On the goat print the word "No". When asked what do these cutouts mean, then can one extend a personal invitation to the enquirer to come to the meeting as his or her guest and find out.

The usual means for advertising the meeting should be employed as well. Here is the church bulletin which can carry an announcement. Your pastor and Sunday school superintendent will be happy to oblige with a public announcement. The Post Office will be at your service to deliver written and mailed invitations. However, remember that

Our Purpose

To recognize that as followers of Christ we have the responsibility of being doers of the word as well as hearers, and in so far as we allow His love to find expression through us, in caring for those who are in need of a helping hand, we are serving Him as well as our fellowman.

variety and imagination will arouse interest the most and prevent indifference which comes from sameness. Let your ingenuity reveal itself in the framing of these invitations. This will mean thought and planning.

Guidance for the Leader

This topic lends itself to role playing or dramatization. However, to be effective much time and care must be given in preparation and rehearsal. On the other hand, if done well, the impact will be deeper and the lesson more surely learned.

The cast of characters can include the following: a hungry person; a thirsty person; a stranger; a tattered beggar; a sick person; a prisoner; two passersby; and a narrator. If this cast is too large, then several of the characters can be eliminated such as the thirsty person and the prisoner without seriously affecting the point to be made.

As for costumes, modern dress appropriate to each character is sufficient and perhaps will be more meaningful because it is contemporary. Depending on the size of the room being used and the equipment available, the scenes can be given either one after another or all set up beforehand and spotlighted as needed so that a more or less continuous production results. If each scene must be enacted on the same site, then the interludes between each could be the occasion for appropriate music on the piano or a solo voice or a quartet or by the whole group. A good hymn to use stanza by stanza according to its appropriateness is *Where Cross the Crowded Ways*. The last verse of this hymn would be most fitting as a conclusion.



Following the presentation, time should be given for discussion of the topic especially in terms of ways in which we today can be numbered among the sheep rather than the goats.

Topic Presentation

The narrator shall read aloud Matthew 25:31-35 through the words: "—and you gave me food." Let the curtains part or the spotlight shine on a scene showing a person sitting with his head bowed on his arms which are resting on a table which is set for a meal but holds no food. In fitting ways let him indicate that there is no food in the house. For example, let him get up and look in a food cupboard or breadbox, open a pot and lift it up and tilt it, go back to the table and run his fingers over the empty plate and empty bowls, smack his lips, bend over painfully while holding his stomach and/or whatever other actions would indicate hunger and no food for quite some time. Then let a man stroll by carrying a Bible. Let the hungry man run after him and beg him for food. Let the man indicate his annoyance and refusal and pass on. Then, let the narrator read James 2:14-17.

Have another individual pass by. Let the hungry man implore that one for food. Let this individual go and return with food and sit down and watch the hungry man eat. Let the narrator read I Kings 17:8-16. End of scene I.

When the next scene is ready have the narrator read Matthew 25:35, "I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Let the scene this time show a man dusty and tired walking a lonely road indicating in various ways that he is thirsty by running his tongue over his lips, holding his throat, stumbling along, turning an empty canteen to indicate no

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water. Then show him nearing a house, knocking on the door and asking for water. Let the one answering disappear into the house and return with a pitcher full and give it to him.

Or, the scene could show a wounded man lying on a battlefield and another soldier stumbling upon him and sharing his water with him. As the scene fades have the narrator read Matthew 10:40-42 and then have the fourth verse of the hymn *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* sung by an individual or the group. End of scene II.

The next scene should follow the reading by the narrator of Matthew 25:35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." It could show a young person lugging a heavy suitcase and looking all about him in bewilderment while others are passing him by. Every now and again he should make an attempt to speak to one of the passersby who ignore him. Finally, one should stop and talk with him and learning of his plight lift his suitcase and take him by the arm and lead him off stage. Then the narrator should read Genesis 18:1-8 and Hebrews 13:1,2. End of scene III.

When the next scene is ready the narrator should read the words, "I was sick and you visited me." The scene could show a person lying in bed and indicating his pain and loneliness. Two people draw near the house where the sick person lives. The one suggests to the other that they ought to stop in for a visit. The other refuses and after some arguing both go on.

Next should come another young person with a bouquet of flowers and a gift. He should knock on the door and eventually come into the room where the sick person is, give him the gift wrapped package (perhaps a book) and then put the flowers in a vase. Then he should sit down and enter into conversation with the sick person. Before leaving he should have a word of prayer. As the lights dim or the curtains close the narrator should read Luke 10:30-37. End of scene IV.

Before the curtain rises on the next scene or the spotlight is thrown on it let the narrator read Matthew 25:36: "I was in prison and you came to me." This scene could show a young person in the cell of a reformatory dressed in prison garb. He should be sitting on the edge of his cot in a dejected fashion with his head in his hands. Hearing footsteps he raises his head hopefully, runs to his bars and expectantly waits to receive a letter from the man who

Questions for Discussion

1. Why does Jesus say that whatever is done for another in need is done to Him?
2. Are the agencies set up for the care of the needy, the sick, the problem citizen and other welfare work the final answer in the helping of these people?
3. Can we excuse ourselves from our responsibility to these needy people by allowing such agencies to take over?
4. What are some of the ways by which we can express our Christian concern in their behalf?

delivers the mail. There is none. He goes back to his cot and resumes his former pose. Then a friend comes to visit him. He is allowed to enter the cell and both sit down to talk. A gift the friend is carrying is given to the prisoner. As the light fades or the curtains are drawn the narrator should read II Timothy 1:15-18. After a pause have the narrator read Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 25:37-40. Then the last two verses of the hymn *Where Cross the Crowded Ways* should be sung.

Illustration

Sir Galahad, a young knight of King Arthur's court, set out on a quest to find the Holy Grail, the cup which Jesus used at the time of the Last Supper in the upper room. It had disappeared leaving no trace as to its whereabouts. According to the tradition in circulation at the time of King Arthur it could only be rediscovered by a youth who was pure in heart and unsullied by the world.

After a search of many years and many hardships endured, Sir Galahad was nearing the court of King Arthur with his quest unfulfilled. Taking the cup he carried, he dipped it into some water of a pool in order that its liquid coolness might relieve his thirst. As he was lifting the water to his lips a thirsty stranger came upon him and begged for a drink. Sir Galahad handed him the cup he was holding and as he drank from it the cup was transformed into the Holy Grail.

Follow-up Activities

In every congregation there are members who are ill or shut-ins. Such appreciate visitors and tokens of remembrance. Let the group assume the responsibility of taking the bouquets placed in church each Sunday to the sick person or shut-in designated by the proper authorities. Do not only deliver the flowers but, if possible, spend a few moments in cheerful conversation, and

before leaving, ask if a word of prayer is desired.

Do any of you drive an automobile? So, find out if there are any members of the church who need transportation to get to church and arrange to call on such and bring them home after church. Especially can this be helpful when the weather is not too good.

If there is an institution in your area such as an orphanage, an old-folks home, a home of detention, a convalescent home, to mention but a few, why not form a musical group and arrange with the director of such an institution to visit it at least once a month and present a program of hymns and other sacred music. The program could also include a portion of Scripture and a prayer. If the members of your group are capable of giving testimonies or a brief devotional message, then that could be part of the program too. Afterwards, spend a few moments with the people there in conversation. In this way you will come to know them more intimately and, in the process, discover other ways you can meet their needs in the name of the spirit of Christ.

Resources

Poems: Longfellow, H. W., *The Christian's Tale: The Legend Beautiful for Part Two of Tales of a Wayside Inn*. St. Louis: The Christian Endeavor Society, 1964. Garrison, Theodosia, *The Legend of the Saint*.

The 1964 Christian Endeavor Week Packet contains many items to help you observe the 83rd anniversary of the founding of Christian Endeavor Week. The "Manual for Guidance and Resource" suggests a number of ways to carry out the theme of the week "These My Brethren."

The Packet also contains a radio script and a television script. The radio program about the history of Christian Endeavor; the television script portrays the theme of the week. Plans for a special "Friendly House Party" is included in the Packet.

The 1964 Packet is available from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43216. Price: 50c each.

Daily Bible Readings

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|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| M. Jan. 20 | Christ Was Poor | II Corinthians 8:1-15 |
| T. Jan. 21 | He Came to the Poor | Luke 4:16-22 |
| W. Jan. 22 | The Early Church Shared | Acts 2:42-47 |
| T. Jan. 23 | God Chooses the Poor | James 2:1-5 |
| F. Jan. 24 | The Righteous Inherit the Kingdom | Matthew 25:31-46 |
| S. Jan. 25 | The Unrighteous Are Sentenced | Matthew 25:47-49 |
| Sun. Jan. 26 | —Topic: "These My Brethren" (Denominational Day—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week) | |

Comments by Dr. Samuel S. Haas, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament studies at Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

Topic Summaries for January

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Dr. Earle W. Gates, chairman; Joan Pyle, Rev. Walter C. Schaeffer, and Wanna Sell.

Overcoming Communism

(three topics)

Communism, What Is It?

Psalm 53; 1 John 4:1-6

Communism is one of the most powerful forces in the world today. This unit will continue three weeks, and should aim to increase our knowledge and control of this force. Plan to do considerable outside reading. Bring facts, materials, and perhaps films. Clip and discuss newspaper items. This form of socialism, though violently atheistic, assumes a form of religion by: (a) absolute faith; (b) unquestioning allegiance to leader; (c) loyalty even to death; (d) rules of conduct; (e) songs, rituals, symbols; (f) emotional propagandizing and proselytizing; (g) promises of reward. What great do you see from this? Communism, also a philosophy and a government, skillfully uses techniques of subversion and infiltration. It exploits dissatisfaction, seeming injustice, or misfortune. Explain these terms and illustrate. Discuss how each is used. Plan a study group to actively explore this threat to freedom.

Communism, How Understand It?

Proverbs 2:1-15; James 1:1-12

Knowledge of a foe, his theories, and his methods are essential for defense or offense. Christianity and Communism are enemies to the death. Remember Khrushchev's solemn promise, "We'll bury you"? How do we react to it? A lexicon of Communism is necessary; their understanding vastly differs from ours. Study and discuss their definitions and practices. Add others.

- Infiltration—Enter actively into all areas of life, agitate, and disrupt; "Fifth Column" technique.
- Subversion — Undermine morals and loyalties; corrupt; transfer to self.
- Conditioned Reflex—Relate all activities to a good cause such as

peace; thus gain unwarranted support.

- Two-step diplomacy — Yield one step backward on an issue, take two forward under that "smoke-screen."
- "Peace"—Not absence of warfare, but total Soviet domination; therefore, no resistance possible.
- "Liberty" — Freedom within the orbit of strict regimentation.

3. Communism, How Overcome It?

James 1:16-25; John 3:17-21

Communism has the seed of defeat within itself by its atheism, barbarism, and slavery. Christianity is the only adequate answer to it. Intelligent action, and obedience to Jesus Christ, can overcome it. (Read Zechariah 4:6.) It must be remembered, with suitable response, that the strength of Communism, as of Christianity, is in the individual. Every Communist (a) studies carefully, (b) works diligently and unselfishly, (c) considers himself a missionary with daily duties. Can any Christian do less? The stated aim of Marxism is to conquer and rule the world. Our Great Commission is to *win* the world. Faith, prayer, study, work, evangelism, sacrifice, plus the leading of the triumphant Holy Spirit—by these elements can Communism be overcome. Discuss how Christianity contains the seed of victory. What is the next step?

Christian Endeavor

(two topics)

1. A Christ-Centered Fellowship

*Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:17-21; Philip-
pians 2:1-4*

We celebrate Christian Endeavor's birthday anniversary each year, from the last Sunday in January through the first Sunday in February. Christian Endeavor, a movement that is Christ-centered, was born of God *in* and *of* the Church. Active membership in the movement is based upon the first basic principle, "Confession of Christ." Dr. Clark stated, "The roots of the Christian Endeavor tree are its very principles—Confession of Christ, Service for Christ, Loyalty to Christ's Church, and Fellowship with

Christ's People. With these roots the Christian Endeavor tree will bear fruit in any soil. Cut away any of these roots in any clime and the tree dies." One of the aims of the movement is to lead people to Christ. Study the principles. Note in the pledge how many phrases make direct reference to Christ. Discuss the motto.

Citizens in Action

HELGA soberly warns neighbors, "It is dangerous to let things go when you know that affairs of government are poorly or corruptly handled."

This young mother merits attention. She grew up in East Germany under two dictatorships. Because her father had fought Communism, Helga was forced to work 16 hours a day in a uranium mine.

"People ask me if the East Germans didn't deserve their troubles, having supported Nazis and then Communists," Helga says. "The families I know supported neither! Nazis took charge while the people as a whole had to struggle for bare necessities."

When Communists conquered East Germany, almost all will to resist had been lost. There seemed to be nothing to fight with, little to fight for.

"Here in America," Helga says, "I know many people who see things that are wrong in politics and government. They talk about them to me and others but they don't go to those best able to do something. They do not act."

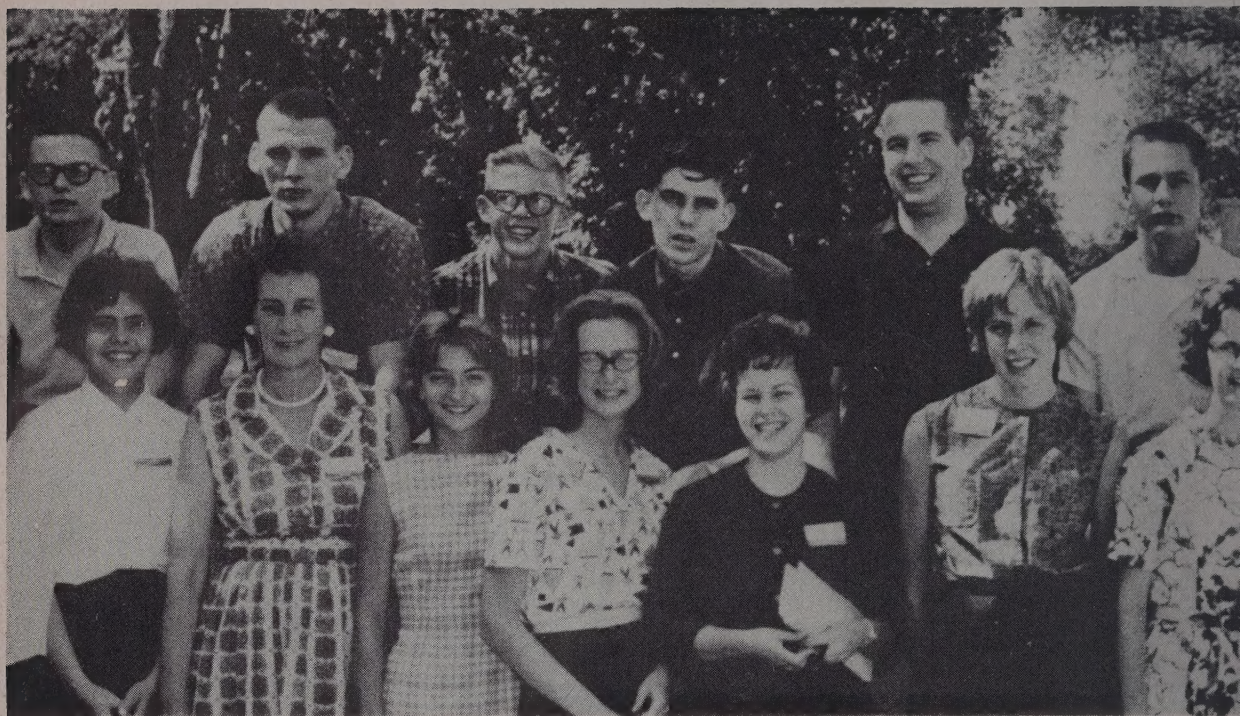
"This unwillingness to speak out with courage, to take a stand on principles, is very dangerous."

CHURCH members and church groups in the U. S. and Canada once acted as vigorous non-partisans in politics—the public's business. In recent years many church folk seem agreed that "churches must stay out of politics."

What is a church, in Protestantism? "A company of Christian believers . . ." whose concerns include morality and justice and who should be committed to providing a society fit for children. Good citizenship objectives make sense.

When *we* are fainthearted, wrongs accumulate and freedom is in peril.

B.H.D.



YOUR INVITATION to invest in a Vital Program for Youth...

You can help—sponsor a program of youth evangelism to win the unreached to Jesus Christ . . . continue the Christian Citizenship Witness, to encourage youth to become good citizens and to combat Communism . . . aid in a spiritual ministry to young people in the Armed Services of the country . . . carry on the current, vital program for youth in thousands of societies and unions . . . publish monthly THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD and quarterly JUNIOR CE MEETINGS . . . provide devotional meeting topics and development for different age groups; also publish many types of helps for discussion and for worship . . . produce books, pamphlets, bulletins, leaflets, and other materials for the varied needs of youth . . . participate in the world-wide outreach of Christian Endeavor.

You may become—an Annual Member at \$15 . . . an Annual Member with your own Doubling at \$30 . . . A Sustaining Annual Member at \$50 or more.

Send your membership today to

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR